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1941 – 1991

Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-199
Tuesday
15 October 1991

Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-199 CONTENTS *15 October 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Chief of Staff Lobov Cited on Arms Initiatives

PM1110144591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS correspondent A. Naryshkin report: "Soviet Side Has Not Shown Haste"]

[Text] Moscow, 9 October—The decisions of the USSR and U.S. presidents are in accord with each other and are in keeping with the provisions of the treaty on strategic offensive arms [START], Army General Vladimir Lobov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, stated in an interview with your TASS correspondent today.

As far as tactical weapons are concerned, there is a definite closeness of positions here. We carried out, he stressed, a detailed analysis of the American side's proposals and looked at how they accord with the provisions of the START Treaty and sit with the overall scheme of the disarmament process, and then made the decision on reciprocal moves. Thus, the Soviet side did not show haste in responding to George Bush's initiatives.

The steps taken by the two countries did not catch us unawares, the chief of the General Staff continued. The dynamics and logic of the disarmament process force us to work to the future, to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, as designated by Gorbachev several years ago now. Although it was difficult to predict certain details of the proposals made (including those regarding the complete destruction of nuclear mines and the removal from service and partial elimination of nuclear warheads for surface-to-air missiles).

But we also had a surprise in store for the Americans, the general said, meaning the withdrawal of all nuclear munitions from combat units of the tactical air force. This formulation of the question was not, by all accounts, expected in the United States. The American side is now studying the proposal.

"The third zero"—100-percent elimination of tactical weapons—is not yet in being. But the nuclear munitions for artillery and tactical missiles will be completely destroyed. And this already marks a large step forward, Lobov said.

It is possible to speak not of a nuclear disarmament race, but of an initiatives race, he said. However, we do have the time to think, analyze, draw conclusions, and carry out practical deeds. Neither side needs haste in this matter. While actively advancing the disarmament process, the interests of industry, including the defense industry, should not be forgotten. If normal conversion ensues and the technology released as a result of the cutback in basic production is directed toward civil needs, the results could by very appreciable.

The USSR attitude toward the provisions of the 1972 ABM Treaty has remained invariable to date. The readiness expressed by the Soviet side to discuss the American proposals on nonnuclear antimissile defense systems will not, I think, lead to hasty revision of the treaty, the army general said. At the same time, in his assessment, the USSR's lag behind the United States in the sphere of developing and creating such systems is proportional to our technology's lag behind the Americans'. "Catching up" with the United States in this sphere requires enormous economic and scientific investment. But the results ultimately obtained should be used to the full extent in the civil sectors. Our most grievous error is that we developed military science and technology at the expense of allowing the civil sectors to fall behind, whereas the economy of the entire country should have been pushed forward and the resources for defense needs then derived from this potential. Only with such a situation will we be able to have a strong national economy and modern defense system.

In declaring yet again a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests, we expect a commensurate and constructive response from the U.S. side, particularly the entire public of that country, the chief of the General Staff stressed. And perestroyka and the "conversion" of thinking are to a certain extent necessary to the American military too, he concluded.

Shaposhnikov Welcomes 'Disarmament Race'

LD1210123391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Commenting on a decision by the USSR State Council supporting proposals put forward by the USSR president regarding disarmament issues, Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said that at the moment the disarmament process is like a disarmament race. It is good, he said, that we are leaving the arms race for a disarmament race. Everyone understands that there are no factors undermining USSR and U.S. security, which is why both states are trying to get rid of the burden of arms as soon as possible, Shaposhnikov noted.

The defense minster also stressed that practical steps lie ahead. Specialists from both countries ought to work out a mechanism for the implementation of an agreement process and hold specific negotiations. Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov did not rule out the possibility of a USSR-U.S. summit once specialists reach their final conclusions.

Chemical Weapons Accord Discussed in Geneva

LD1110164491 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 11 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva October 11 TASS—A session of the special committee for chemical weapons of the conference on disarmament ended in Geneva on Friday.

The session, held in a business-like atmosphere, discussed a new draft convention adopted in early September to ban chemical weapons and eliminate its stockpiles, Sergey Batsanov, head of the Soviet delegation, told TASS.

Participants focused on requested inspections of suspicious sites, not declared by states. Batsanov said this is a delicate issue since it may affect commercial and technological secrets of enterprises, firms and laboratories, which have nothing to do with chemical weapons but raising certain doubts.

He said a seminar of experts on elimination of chemical weapons, which was held within the framework of the session, discussed specific aspects of this issue.

He expressed hope the session will start a series of meetings on international cooperation in eliminating chemical weapons. The draft convention will provide a legal basis for this cooperation.

Worldwide Issues

Foreign Ministry Holds Press Briefing

LD1410172991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1612 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Sergey Nikishev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 14 Oct (TASS)—Soviet-Japanese talks and the USSR foreign minister's forthcoming Middle East trip were the main topics of a USSR Foreign Ministry press center briefing today by Vitaliy Churkin, head of a USSR Foreign Ministry directorate. [passage omitted]

"To develop Soviet-Japanese relations further, Boris Pankin proposed rejecting the stereotypes of the past, deepening mutual understanding, and creating an infrastructure of trust, cooperation, and partnership." [passage omitted]

Vitaliy Churkin rejected Western media reports that USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and Afghan opposition representatives discussed in New York the possibility of transferring the functions of president of the Repulic of Afghanistan to them. He stressed that the Soviet Union continues to regard the matter of power structures in Afghanistan as the prerogative of the Afghans themselves.

"The fact that Baghdad continues to try to conceal the military aspects of its nuclear activity can only cause the Soviet Union regret," said Vitaliy Churkin. Talking about the last International Atomic Energy Agency inspection in Iraq and the Soviet side's position on it, the USSR Foreign Ministry representative stressed: "We call upon Iraq to comply strictly and fully with all obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions and to cooperate constructively with the inspection groups."

Pankin, Nakayama Talks

LD1410163491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1509 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Oct (TASS)—The talks between heads of the foreign political departments of the USSR and Japan, which started in Moscow this morning, continued over a working lunch in honor of the Japanese foreign minister.

Apart from Ministers Boris Pankin and Taro Nakayama they were also attended by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, Georgiy Kunadze, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]; Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet; and other officials.

Vitaliy Churkin, representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry, told journalists that there had been a thorough discussion of the entire complex of issues of bilateral relations, including the problem of concluding a peace treaty between the two countries. Within this context, there was an exchange of views on the issue of "Northern territories."

Speaking about possible approaches to solving this issue, the Soviet minister noted that "the main thing is not to define a final goal now but to embark upon the path of the intensive development of bilateral contacts on this problem." He submitted a number of proposals on organizing such contacts with the participation of representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The composition of working groups to implement such contacts was determined with the Japanese side's agreement. Boris Pankin proposed "to refrain from extremist pronouncements" and to take measures "to raise the level and to expand the volume of Soviet-Japanese relations," the USSR Foreign Ministry representative said.

According to him, in developing the statement made by the USSR president during his visit to Japan last April, the Soviet minister said the USSR is prepared to unilaterally reduce by 30 percent the Soviet military presence on the islands of the South Kuril ridge. He also proposed to prepare "a collection of documents on the history of the territiorial problem" with the participation of the USSR, RSFSR, and Japanese Foreign Ministries.

Vitaliy Churkin said that the Japanese foreign minister proposed setting up a target commission with the participation of representatives of the USSR, RSFSR, and Japanese Governments to resolve the issues of Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation.

The signing of Soviet-Japanese documents, including letters of exchange on visa-free visits by Japanese citizens of the islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Habomai, and Shikotan and to Japan by residents of the islands, and also letters of exchange on increasing quotas for permanently accredited Soviet journalists in Japan and Japanese journalists in the USSR, is also expected to take place today.

Ready To Help End Afghan War

LD1410181391 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Rotislav Gertsev and Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—Chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate Vitaly Churkin denied today reports appearing abroad that Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's talk in New York with the Afghan opposition was devoted to the possibility of transferring to it presidential functions in the Republic of Afghanistan.

"The Soviet Union," he told a briefing here, "has always proceeded and continues to proceed from the premise that it is the prerogative of the Afghan people alone to determine the pattern and character of power in Afghanistan. Only they are entitled to decide their domestic problems," Churkin stressed. "As to the transitional mechanism in Afghanistan," the Soviet diplomat said, "the Soviet Union believes it should include both representatives from the present regime and from the opposition."

The Soviet spokesman qualified as reassuring the recent statment by Mohammad Garun Al-Majdadi, one of the leaders of the Afghan opposition, who expressed readiness to meet Afghanistan's Premier Fazl Haq Khaleqyar within the frameworks of an international conference on Afghanistan.

"As always, the USSR is ready to help stop the war in Afghanistan. In light of this, we attach great importance to the planned talks with representatives of the Afghan opposition in Moscow," Churkin stressed.

Pankin Middle East Tour

LD1410175291 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin is to go on a tour of a number of Middle East countries from October 17-22, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a briefing here today.

Details of the programme are being worked on, but Churkin said the minister is most likely to visit Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt for talks on preparing the Middle East peace conference.

In Israel, talks will focus on the resumption of full-scale diplomatic relations between the two countries. Commenting on the considerable headway made recently in the development of Soviet-Israeli relations, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the Soviet side sees its aim in establishing full-scale diplomatic relations with Israel.

"The logic of our relations, as well as the logic of the situation in the Middle East has led us to this," Churkin said. He expressed hope that full-scale diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel would be established on the eve of the Middle East peace conference.

According to the Soviet spokesman, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are expected to meet in the morning of October 18, probably in Jerusalem.

Upon completing his Middle East tour, Boris Pankin will fly to Paris to attend the Cambodia peace conference, due to open on October 23.

Pankin Discusses UN Meetings in News Conference

OW1210104691 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin held a news conference at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Center on 9 October. You will hear a report on it from our Radio Moscow reporter.

Foreign Minister Pankin told local and foreign reporters about the achievements of the Soviet delegation which participated in the UN General Assembly session in New York for two weeks. He said that the visit was very fruitful. He held about 60 meetings, individually or in groups.

Of the meetings, Foreign Minister Pankin spoke particularly highly about his meeting with President Bush in which both talked about the nuclear arms reduction initiatives. Foreign Minister Pankin's meeting on the arms reduction initiatives was held at almost the same time when Soviet President Gorbachev made his announcement on the matter.

Referring to the announcement, Foreign Minister Pankin said this is a realization of the Soviet positive response. He noted, pointing to Gorbachev announcement, that the Soviet response was announced almost at the same time in New York and Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin also said as follows:

The most important purpose of the Soviet delegation was to report to the world on the various changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union since the democratic revolution in August. The delegation poured efforts in encouraging other nations to have concern in assisting the Soviet Union. What has become clear from the contacts with the representatives is that the international community is concerned about the present situation of not only the Soviet Union but also of the whole world.

Having said so, Foreign Minister Pankin added that the Soviet delegation participated positively in discussions on such issues as Yugoslavia. He also reported on the visit to Sweden on his way to New York and on the visit to Czechoslovakia on his way home.

In reply to reporters' questions, he said there is a possibility that the Middle East peace talks will be held at the end of this month. He revealed his plan to visit Syria, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt around the middle of this month. He said there is a possibility that relations between the Soviet Union and Israel will be restored. He revealed that there is a possibility that the Soviet Union will sign agreements with Hungary and Poland similar to the one signed with Czechoslovakia.

Foreign Minister Pankin also said that the Soviet Union desires to turn its relationship with Cuba to one based on a normal legal basis.

Sums Up Foreign Tour

LD1410105391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0856 GMT 12 Oct 91

[From the "TASS TV" news feature of the "Plus 11" program]

[Excerpts] USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin spent two weeks on foreign trips. [passage omitted] At a meeting with journalists upon his return to Moscow he summed up the results of his trip.

[Begin Pankin recording] I see my primary task as telling people what the Soviet Union is like after the August democratic revolution and the decisions of the extraordinary Fifth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. This theme was to be heard in my speeches at the assembly, in my conversations, in interviews. We wanted to be understood correctly and tried to move the outside world toward active cooperation with our country in the form it which it has set itself up after the Congress of People's Deputies, toward the themes of cooperation and overcoming the many difficulties, to say the least, which inevitably in general accompany any revolution, and moreover in a country so large as ours. [end recording] [passage omitted]

KGB Withdrawal From Ministry

PM1110150391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Oct 91 Union Edition p 5

[G. Charodeyev report: "Will the Intelligence Service Remain Under Foreign Ministry 'Cover'?"]

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin spoke at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists. He gave an analysis of the results of the Soviet delegation's two-week trip to New York to take part in the work of the UN General Assembly session. In B. Pankin's opinion, the trip had a packed agenda. About 60 individual and group meetings and conversations were held with top statesmen from UN member countries. His meetings with the U.S. President and the foreign ministers of Israel and a number of Arab countries, which enabled him "to make progress toward preparing the ground for the organization of a Near East conference," were particularly significant.

The minister said that considerable attention was paid to the situation in Afghanistan and the area around it. In this regard the problem of releasing Soviet POW's was brought to the fore by the Soviet delegation. B. Pankin noted that the reaction of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to this question was "encouraging." A meeting with a representative group of Afghan mujahidin leaders from the Peshawar Seven was particularly significant in this connection.

Commenting on the decision by the Japanese Government to provide the Soviet Union with aid worth $2.5 billion, B. Pankin stated that this measure "has absolutely no connection with our position on the territorial question."

Western journalists recalled Ye. Primakov's recent remarks at a press conference about his intention to "seek a guarantee that Soviet intelligence agents will keep their 'cover' in the Foreign Ministry when he meets with the USSR foreign minister."

"As I said earlier, we were serious when we raised the issue of 'withdrawing' staffers connected with Soviet intelligence organs from the Foreign Ministry," B. Pankin noted. "We are prepared to discuss this question with Primakov's department. But the USSR Foreign Ministry has received no word from him. We are firmly convinced that the intelligence service should operate within the framework of international legal norms."

A Scandinavian correspondent was interested to know B. Pankin's reaction to Finland's territorial claims on the USSR.

The Soviet minister answered that the USSR and Finnish Foreign Ministries are currently considering the extent to which the 1948 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, which has done both our countries a great service, fits today's realities.

However, the territorial question, he stressed, "has not been raised by either side and is beyond discussion."

No KGB Connections

PM1110144891 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDARussian in Russian 11 Oct 91 First Edition p 3

[R. Mustafin report: "B. Pankin: 'No Connections With KGB, Either Direct or Indirect'"]

[Excerpts] USSR Foreign Minister B. Pankin had over 60 meetings with statesmen from a number of foreign countries, including U.S. President Bush, in the past two weeks in New York, where he addressed the UN General Assembly, as well as in Stockholm and Prague. This was the theme of the 9 October press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Answering a question from the correspondent of Britain's THE TIMES as to whether B. Pankin was connected with the KGB during his work for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the minister noted: "Never. Either directly or indirectly. Not now, in the past, or in the future."

'Divorce' From Baltic States

PM1310143991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Oct 91 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under "Two Paragraphs From PRAVDA Teletypes" rubric: "'Divorce' Completed"]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Oct— "The festive part of the process of recognizing independence is over; talks on very big and serious questions lie ahead." This is how USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin commented at a TASS correspondent's request on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Lithuania and Estonia. Although there is agreement between the sides, what has happened—the foreign policy department chief went on—"is a divorce, which means that we must think about family members, children, old people, property, and everything."

According to him, a wide range of topics will be discussed at the upcoming talks between the Union and the Baltic countries, including political, military, and economic questions and the problems of ethnic minorities. Speaking about the Baltic republics' heterogeneous ethnic composition, the minister stressed that these problems must be resolved in such a way "that human and minority rights are protected."

USSR's Relationship With IMF Analyzed

PM1110103391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Oct 91 Single Edition p 4

[V. Gerasimov reply to reader's question under "Readers Ask, Argue, and Reflect" rubric: "Should We Pass the Hat Round? But Where?"]

[Text] "What benefit will we derive from joining the International Monetary Fund? Won't we lose our autonomy?"

[Signed] P. Volkov, engineer, St. Petersburg.

"We do not interfere in politics, we only make recommendations"—such are the assurances of experts of the IMF, the World Bank, and other specialist financial institutions of the United Nations. Entry requires full economic openness—the presentation of precise data on gold reserves (according to the statement of G. Yavlinskiy, they amount to 240 tonnes), defense expenditure, the "pulse rate" of foreign trade, hard currency reserves (according to some reports, only $3 billion, which is catastrophic), the structure of prices, and so forth. Joining the world economy and integration into its financial structures inevitably entails for us a "revolution of power."

Our application was discussed this summer at the London seven plus one meeting in London. "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL commented: Possibly, Gorbachev simply does not understand what he has to do for the Union to become acceptable to the world economy. However, this cannot be attributedd to a lack of instructors. His request for membership of the IMF and the World Bank represents a fine opportunity for the West to state unequivocally that acceptance into these organizations requires above all the fulfillment of one condition—the rejection of Communism. Since Gorbachev does not wish to do this, should not Lithuania or the Ukraine, for example, be placed at the head of the waiting line of candidates for IMF membership?"

After the well-known events of August, the West, although it has changed its view of what "Gorbachev wants to do," all the same has not "automatically" opened up access for the Union to hard currency funds and does not find grounds even now for extensive cash injections.

It is clear, from information we are receiving now, that for the time being our Union of sovereign republics will not be a full member of the IMF. Our collapse has reached such a degree that it is simply dangerous for Western financiers to do business with us. Second, they believe that we have done little in recent years in the way of reforming the economy in the direction of privatization. Therefore it has been decided—for the first time in the history of the IMF—to create for us the status of associate member. What does this mean? We are to be given aid primarily in the form of advice: IMF experts will be working for us. An aid and analytical research package is being elaborated with this aim in view. This first package, which is to determine "What is to be done with us?", contains $30 million. In five to seven months we will be able to receive a bigger package for practical actions. It will be based on recommendations for the development of the agro-industrial complex and the processing industry and for extending and modernizing medium-sized and large enterprises which might become "attractive" for further foreign capital investment.

The draft proposals for economic transformations which are being suggested to us, as has already been widely reported in the press, envisage restricting budget appropriations for military expenditure and removing surplus money resources from circulation in our new Union of sovereign republics. There will be a demand that the financial deficit be reduced through tax increases, freezing credits, and restricting the emission of money, and liberalizing prices to regulate commodity circulation.

The experience, for example, of Hungary, which was the first country from East Europe—back in 1982—to join the IMF, shows: The devil is not so bad as he is painted. Hungary received funds to make structural transformations in industry, to build roads, to develop industrial cooperation, electronics, grain production, livestock rearing. And, something that was very important: The country received the possibility of participating in tenders—in competition for contracts to erect facilities in Africa, Latin America, and thereby, in other words, to increase its exports volume. True, the IMF specialists' demands (if they are not fulfilled, credits are not issued) that the internal budget deficit and external income and expenditure be kept in check (the "volumes" are precisely determined in this area) and that prices be liberalized has from time to time provoked social tension.

"Trust in God, but don't slip up yourself"—our partners intend to proceed on the basis of this principle too. The Union of sovereign republics should pull its socks up; we ourselves must apply the maximum effort to bring about economic transformations. Only then can there be talk of full IMF membership.

Our voyage through the stormy waves of international business is likely to be dangerously tense and fraught with the risk of losses. We have to get used to being told: "So many degrees to the right!" "So many degrees to the left!", fixing the economic bearing. And it should not be forgotten that the interest on credit is always greater than the growth of productivity in countries which have received loans. But is there any other solution for us now? Debts ($68 billion as at 1 September) are continually increasing. The ruble—no chance of convertibility there—is becoming as worthless as dust. Output falls ever further behind world levels. Exports are not growing. The question is of avoiding capsizing over the next decade. And to sail into calm waters, replacing on the way the incompetent and negligent captains and renewing the "engine room." A country like Russia, or a renewed "economic space" arising in place of the USSR cannot be swallowed up or become dependent.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Foreign Minister Pays 'Working' Visit

Visit 'Important' for Relations

OW1010050691 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Commentary by Mikhailov]

[Text] Now you will hear a commentary on Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Nakayama of Japan is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union around the middle of this month. Mr. Mikhailov, a commentator for Radio Moscow, has commented on the visit as follows:

Naturally, it can be said that Foreign Minister Nakayama's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union will have an important significance on the future development of Soviet-Japanese relations. During the visit Foreign Minister Nakayama will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin, and is expected to also meet with Soviet President Gorbachev and Russian Republic President Yeltsin. Thus, the occasion will in fact become the first high-level formal, comprehensive Soviet-Japanese talks to take place since the coup d'etat incident in August.

To quote the views of both the Soviet Union and Japan, the political changes in the Soviet Union, including policies on Japan, are offering the best chance for solving various issues between the two countries and for fundamentally improving bilateral relations. First what attracts attention, as a matter of course, is the conclusion of a Soviet-Japanese peace accord, which will include the settlement of a territorial issue.

There is no need to say a lot about difficulties and sentimental matters over the the Northern Territories; the issue of the four Kuril Islands, in other words. However, the latest Soviet newspapers carry very severe and negative reactions by local residents to various predictions and statements, which say that the southern Kuril Islands may ultimately be returned to Japan. Needless to say, such feelings from local residents have to be taken into consideration when the territorial issue is discussed.

Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin, in a press conference held in New York, touched on this issue and said that we have to take into consideration the fact that Russians and other ethnic groups are living on these islands and that they also have their own opinions regarding this issue. I think this is quite right.

By the way, my own opinion is that such a harsh and emotional attitude from the residents of the Kuril Islands and an unyielding stance from the Japanese side can be attributed to the fact that solid ties—such as trust, mutual understanding and truly good neighborly relations—did not exist between our two countries for a long period of time. I am certain that many pending issues between the Soviet Union and Japan, including the territorial issue, will be viewed quite differently by Japanese and Soviet people and they will understand the necessity of settling the issue, should there be a friendly, reciprocal and cooperative atmosphere in ties between both countries. In that sense, I think that the policies drawn up at the Soviet-Japanese summit talks held in Tokyo in April of this year are very logical and detailed.

In addition to promoting constructive, mutual cooperation in wide ranging areas, including the commercial and economic fields, both sides agreed at the summit talks to accelerate the process for completing a peace treaty. Is it not true that we will be able to create an atmosphere favorable to the settlement of bilateral issues, incuding the territorial issue and the signing of the peace treaty, only when we buckle down to work for realization of the various decisions agreed on the basis of outcomes from the summit talks?

Of late, it has been said that there will be a reshuffling of personnel in the leadership of the Japanese Government. Regardless of a cabinet reshuffle, we hope that the Japanese side will guarantee the maintaining of its active stance—as President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Kaifu agreed in Tokyo in April this year—in every area of Soviet-Japanese relations.

Japan To Assume Exchange Costs

LD1110130391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Oct

[Text] The Government of Japan has decided to assume part of the expenditure for visa-free exchanges between residents of the southern part of the Kurils chain, the so-called Northern Territories. In particular, it is expected that the Japanese will pay in full for travel and living expenses of Soviet citizens from the islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup who travel to the Land of the Rising Sun.

This step, reports SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper, has been taken in connection with the forthcoming signing in Moscow, during the visit by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, of an agreement on visa-free visits by Japanese citizens to these islands and corresponding return visits to Japan by Soviet people living on the islands. It is expected that the first reciprocal journeys on a visa-free basis will begin in November this year.

Aid, Visit Link 'Indirect'

OW1010181991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Japanese foreign minister Taro Nakayama is arriving in Moscow for a visit on October 13. Recently the Japanese Government announced that it allocated two and a half billion dollars in aid to the Soviet Union.

"These events are undoubtedly interconnected", a prominent member of the Japanese embassy in Moscow told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. However this interconnection is indirect, he added. "Aid to Russia or to the USSR would be granted even if T. Nakayama's visit to Moscow had not been planned. Nevertheless this announcement was timed with his visit to create more favorable atmosphere for him", said the diplomat.

According to him, the decision to grant Japanese aid was "a logical step" conforming to agreements reached by the G-7 countries at their conference in London. Participants in the conference, the diplomat went on to say, agreed to give Moscow humanitarian and technical aid. Japan intends to grant precisely such humanitarian aid.

The Japanese diplomat conceded that the failure of the August coup in Moscow and the recent visit to Tokyo by the acting chairman of Russia's parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov influenced his government's stand and accelerated its decision to give aid.

The spokesman for the embassy found it hard to answer the question whether prime minister Toshiki Kaifu whose term in office will soon expire will make his planned visit to Moscow or not. He said he supposed that his visit might be cancelled because of domestic developments in Japan. "T. Kaifu simply has no time left", the diplomat explained. According to him, the Soviet leadership will have to deal with the new leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party who will become the country's prime minister. Their meeting might already take place in November, he said.

The diplomat confirmed that T. Nakayama intends to confer during his visit with the USSR President M. Gorbachev and with the Russian President B. Yeltsin. They'll discuss, among other things, Japan's economic aid to the USSR and Russia, as well as problems connected with bilateral relations, including the territorial dispute. Japan expects a considerable improvement in bilateral relations as a result of the upcoming talks, he said. "The time for this is appropriate", the spokesman for the Japanese embassy in Moscow pointed out.

Nakayama Arrives

LD1210131991 Moscow TASS in English 1233 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS Correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Saturday arrived in Moscow on a visit.

At Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport, Nakayama told TASS he will meet Soviet and Russian leaders to discuss prospects for the development of relations between Japan, Russia and the Soviet Union.

Pankin Ready To Discuss Kurils

OW1210165591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1632 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 12 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama on Saturday he is ready to discuss a bilateral territorial dispute that has been a stumbling block to improving bilateral ties, Japanese officials said.

Nakayama, who arrived here the same day, visited the Soviet Foreign Ministry to briefly exchange views with Pankin prior to formal talks.

Pankin welcomed a package of 2.5 billion dollars in economic assistance to the Soviet Union the Japanese Government has pledged, the officials said.

Nakayama told Pankin he would like to discuss bilateral relations, including the long-running dispute over four islands off Hokkaido held by the Soviets since the end of World War II. Pankin replied he will talk about all issues that should be discussed, the officials said.

Nakayama later met Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting speaker of the Russian parliament. On Monday, he will have full-fledged talks with Pankin in a bid to settle the territorial issue.

On Tuesday, Nakayama will hold talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, and Russian Republic Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The visit is the first by Nakayama since a botched hard-line coup briefly overthrew Gorbachev in August.

Pankin-Nakayama Talks Begin

LD1210173991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1635 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Oct (TASS)— Talks between Boris Pankin and Taro Nakayama, the foreign ministers of the USSR and Japan, began with a one-to-one meeting this afternoon at the USSR Foreign Ministry. The Japanese foreign minister arrived in Moscow today on an official visit.

Answering a question from a TASS correspondent before the meeting began, Boris Pankin said that the program for the Japanese visitor's stay is an extremely broad one. Taro Nakayama is scheduled to have talks with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, as well as to hold a whole series of other "interesting meetings and conversations". He added that his Japanese counterpart would also need to acclimatize himself in Moscow and to get to know the Moscow region a little, albeit briefly. A cultural program has also been scheduled.

It is perfectly obvious, the minister noted, that the talks will center on issues of bilateral Soviet-Japanese relations and topical international problems. The five points for developing Japanese-Soviet relations set out recently by the Japanese Government have been widely publicized in the world, and Taro Nakayama will have the opportunity to discuss them with Soviet leaders, including the president of the USSR and the president of Russia, Boris Pankin concluded.

'Great Hopes' for Talks

LD1210215391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Video report from Moscow by correspondent A. Ilyichev on meeting between USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and visiting Japanese delegation led by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] A decree issued today by the president of Russia appoints Professor Valentin Fedorov chairman of the Oblast Executive Committee, in other words, to be head of administration for Sakhalin Oblast. He is known for his irreconcilable campaign to preserve the Kuril Islands under Russian jurisdication, come what may.

Be that as it may, the subject came up for discussion in Moscow today with the arrival of the Japanese foreign minister.

[Ilyichev] [video shows Pankin in discussion with four or five Japanese] This is the first visit to our country by a Japanese minister since the August events. The business element of it began at once today, with a meeting with Union Foreign Minister Pankin. In Japan, and indeed here, too, great hopes are being pinned on this trip. In the Land of the Rising Sun they are making no secret of the fact that, following the failure of the putsch, the opportunity has presented itself for a new start in bilateral relations.

A signal of support for the changes taking place in this country was Tokyo's recent decision to grant us aid to the tune of $2.5 billion. Today's meeting showed that Japan is prepared to go further and develop cooperation at both the Union and republican levels. The pace of that cooperation, however, will to a large extent depend on the progress made in settling the territorial dispute.

Before setting off for Moscow, Nakayama voiced the hope that in the interests of future Soviet-Japanese relations, the leaders of the USSR and Russia will make an appropriate political decision on the territorial problem. Whether the time has come for such a decision, and on what terms it is possible, will be shown by the outcome of the Japanese minister's meetings and talks with Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin.

Aid 'Has No Bearing' on Trip

PM1410091391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Oct 91 Union Edition p 3

[A. Anichkin report: "Where the Japanese Billions Will Go. Foreign Minister T. Nakayama's Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Moscow on Saturday for a visit ahead of which Tokyo announced that it has decided to send the USSR emergency [ekstrennaya] aid of $2.5 billion. According to the official Japanese line, this aid has no bearing on the main political purpose of Nakayama's trip—to make progress in resolving the long-standing territorial dispute over sovereignty of the South Kurils. Tokyo is very sensitive to any hints of the possibility of an "islands for credit" deal.

The Japanese and USSR foreign ministers began their talks Saturday, and the guest had a meeting with Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet.

The Japanese Embassy held a previsit briefing for journalists, announcing that T. Nakayama is expected to be received by USSR President Gorbachev and Russian President Yeltsin. The schedule for the visit also includes a trip to St. Petersburg, where the foreign minister will in all probability meet with Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak.

According to the briefing's moderator, Minister Counselor Hiroshi Shigeta, Japan prefers to cautiously play a waiting game on such a delicate issue as the demarcation of powers between Russia and the Union in the belief that this is "Russia's internal affair." Which is, needless to say, understandable and sensible in view of how vague Moscow itself has hitherto been on this issue. The Japanese diplomat did however admit that, of the republics, Russia remains the main priority in Japanese diplomacy and a large proportion of the announced aid will evidently go to Russia.

Nevertheless, Japan is displaying increasing interest in developing ties with the Asian republics too, in particular with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (a photograph in pride of place in the Japanese ambassador's residence shows the ambassador horse-riding with Kyrgyz President A. Akayaev). There has also been mention of Moldova.

From Moscow it seems natural, by virtue of their geographical proximity, for Japan to pin particular hopes on the regions of the Russian Far East and Siberia. However, the minister counselor admitted that Japan is giving increasing weight to the view that it would be far more effective to largely develop cooperation with areas of the European section of the USSR, where the bulk of the economic potential and the most skilled manpower resources are concentrated. According to some estimates, whereas 5 rubles [R] profit can be obtained for every R100 invested in the Far East, the ratio would be R10 to R100 in the European part of the country. Supporters of this approach are evidently bearing in mind the proximity of the West European market.

The amount of aid announced by Tokyo is so large that it worried some of the journalists present—what if the credits disappear amid a load of bureaucratic and economic confusion. These fears are however in vain, since a large proportion of the promised $2.5 billion will remain in Japan in the meantime—and evidently for a long time to come. It is envisaged that $1.8 billion of this sum will constitute an insurance fund for Japanese companies' foreign trade operations, while $200 million represents credits from the Import and Export Bank (controlled by the government) to help Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation to pick up and the other $500 million represents humanitarian aid in the form of food and medicines, whose shipment and transportation will also be paid for on Import and Export Bank credit. What is more, Tokyo previously promised $100 million of food and medical aid. But virtually none of that has arrived as yet.

All these factors, the root cause of which should obviously be sought on our side, by no means belittle the significance of the announced aid package. It will undoubtedly make Japanese companies bolder and increase their interest in the Soviet area of their activity. One may hope that the talks that Eiichi Nakao, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, will have in the USSR 20-22 October immediately after the foreign minister's visit will help straighten out more specific areas of and programs for aid. Nakao's trip to Moscow has been planned in accordance with the decisions of the London G-7 meeting, which discussed the problem of aid for the Soviet Union.

Nakayama, Pankin Agree on Security

OW1510012891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 15 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin agreed Monday the two countries begin a dialogue on security, Japanese officials said.

The agreement came during a second round of talks here by the two foreign ministers, who discussed international affairs and security issues.

Nakayama proposed meetings be held whenever necessary on security by officials from their foreign ministries and Japan's Defense Agency and the Soviet Defense Ministry as part of confidence- building measures, the officials said.

The Japanese foreign minister suggested military officials participate in such meetings.

He also proposed starting negotiations to conclude a treaty aimed at prevention of maritime accidents between naval vessels of the two countries.

Pankin agreed, saying the idea is very interesting and the Soviet Union takes the same view, the officials said.

Nakayama said Japan will continue to call on North Korea to accept international inspection of nuclear facilities as soon as possible and without conditions.

The Soviet foreign minister replied his country understands Japan's concern about the danger of nuclear weapons and thinks North Korea should conclude a safeguard agreement.

Pankin accepted an invitation from Nakayama to visit Japan at the earliest opportunity, the officials said.

At the beginning of the second round of talks, Pankin made a supplementary remark on the territorial issue and proposed the foreign ministries of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation, and Japan compile materials on demarcation of borders and publish them.

Nakayama replied he will study the proposal, Japanese officials said.

In the first round of talks, Nakayama and Pankin agreed to reorganize the structure of negotiations in order to speed progress toward the signing of a bilateral peace treaty.

Japan maintains it will not sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union unless Moscow returns four islands off Hokkaido held by the Soviets since the end of World War II.

They are Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of isles, referred to by Japan as the northern territories and by the Soviet Union as the South Kurils.

The two foreign ministers agreed to accelerate negotiations by setting up a subgroup within peace treaty working-level talks to discuss the territorial dispute.

Nakayama said Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito would be Tokyo's representative to the subgroup while Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze will represent the Soviet side.

Pankin informed Nakayama the Soviet Union will soon withdraw 30 percent of Soviet troops stationed on the islands, the first official indication withdrawal plans proposed in April by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev are being carried out, the officials said.

The Soviet Union deploys one army division and 40 MiG-23 fighter planes on the disputed islands, according to Japan's annual defense report issued in July.

Nakayama and Pankin signed a document which allows former Japanese and present Russian residents of the four islands to travel between the islands and Japan without visas or passports.

In the diplomatic document, both countries describe the situation as a "temporary measure" designed to promote mutual understanding toward helping conclude a peace treaty.

President Askar Akayev of the Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzia said in a meeting with Nakayama he will support Japan's stance in the territorial dispute, the Japanese officials said.

Nakayama, who arrived here Saturday, will meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday morning.

Citizenship to Kuril Residents

LD1410094191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Oct (TASS)—Tokyo would be willing to offer Japanese citizenship to Soviet residents of the disputed islands in the southern part of the Kurils range, should these islands be returned to Japan. This is reported today by the NIKHON KEIZAI newspaper, quoting information received from the delegation accompanying Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on his current visit to the USSR.

Specifically, this means that immediately after the "return" of the islands, all the Soviet residents would immediately be entitled to stay. Those who wish to return to the USSR would be compensated by Japan for the value of their property and relocation costs. Those remaining would after a few years be offered a choice: either take Japanese citizenship, or acquire permanent residency rights as agreed upon in negotiations with the Soviet Union and Russia.

After the "return" of the South Kurils, Tokyo would transfer land ownership rights back to the Japanese who lived on the islands before they became part of Soviet territory. However, the Japanese Finance Ministry would mediate in setting up "tenancies" between the new landlords and remaining Soviet people. The newspaper hastens to add that the latter will, whatever happens, retain the right to continue occupying their homes.

According to the newspaper, there is a formula in place for the Soviet Armed Forces currently deployed on the Kunashir, Iturup, and Shikotan islands to withdraw. Tokyo intends to hold negotiations about this with Moscow along the lines of the "German model", which envisages appropriate cash compensation. The sum of 1.7 million yen (over $13,000) per serviceman is proposed as a starting point.

NIKHON KEIZAI stresses that the delegation accompanying T. Nakayama, Japan's foreign minister, intends to set out such a position to the Soviet side, should the latter take a positive view of transferring the islands. On the whole, the newspaper writes, the purpose of all this is to reduce the hostility of the current residents of the Kurils to the return of these territories to Japan.

Accord on Kuril-Japan Travel

OW1410110591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 14 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union have agreed that former Japanese and present Russian residents of four disputed Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido will be allowed to travel between the islands and Japan without visas or passports, Japanese officials said Monday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin signed a document on the reciprocal visa-free travel on Monday at the Soviet Foreign Ministry here.

Japan hopes that the first Japanese group will visit the four islands next month, the officials said, noting that Soviet visitors might come to Japan next year.

In the diplomatic document, both countries describe the situation as a "temporary measure," and said it is designed to promote mutual understanding as part of the efforts toward helping them conclude a peace treaty.

The islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group off the eastern tip of Hokkaido—were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II. The territorial dispute has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from concluding a peace treaty.

Under the new agreement, eligible Japanese and Soviet citizens need an identification certificate issued by their respective governments.

The Japanese to be allowed to visit the islands without visas would be restricted to primarily former residents and their families, reporters, and activists engaged in seeking the return of the four islands to Japan, the officials said.

Hokkaido Prefectural government officials said Monday that they are considering sending a delegation by Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi to the four islands by the end of November.

According to the plan, the group will consist of some 50 representatives made up of former residents, civic groups, and the Nemuro municipal government in Hokkaido.

Pankin Vows 30 Percent Troop Cut

OW1410130191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 14 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on Monday pledged a 30 percent cut in Soviet troops on the four Soviet-held islands claimed by Japan, Japanese officials said.

Pankin made the promise during the first round of talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who is currently on a weeklong visit to the Soviet Union.

Pankin told Nakayama that the Soviet Union is interested in Japanese business activity on the disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets—all located off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

The two foreign ministers agreed to establish a bilateral panel aimed at accelerating the pace of negotiations upon the conclusion of a peace treaty, the officials said.

Agree To Reorganize Treaty Talks

OW1410152491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 14 KYODO—Foreign Ministers Taro Nakayama of Japan and Boris Pankin of the Soviet Union agreed Monday to reorganize the structure of negotiations in order to speed progress toward the signing of a formal peace pact, Japanese officials said.

Treaty negotiations between Tokyo and Moscow have remained snagged over Japan's claims to a handful of Soviet-held islands off the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido.

Meeting on Monday for a first round of talks here, Nakayama and Pankin agreed that negotiations could be accelerated by creating a subgroup within peace treaty working-level talks to discuss the territorial dispute, the officials said. The two men also agreed to set up another subgroup to handle other bilateral issues.

Nakayama indicated that Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito would be Tokyo's representative to the subgroup mulling the future of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group.

Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze will represent the Soviet side over what the Kremlin refers to as the south Kurils and Tokyo calls the "Northern Territories."

Japanese negotiators were encouraged to hear that Kunadze would represent the Soviets since he is viewed as being more receptive toward returning the islands taken at the end of the war by the Soviets, officials said.

Pankin cautioned, however, that sentiment within the Soviet Union remains opposed to the reversion of the islands to Japan. "I want to remind you all again of the importance of public opinion," Japanese officials quoted Pankin as saying.

Nakayama, who arrived in Moscow on Saturday, urged serious discussions on the return of the four islands, adding that an affirmation in principle to handing back the islands was necessary to resolve the problem.

Pankin remarked that difficulties in resolving the issue would decrease as bilateral relations improved.

Nakayama proposed a tripartite committee of Japanese, Soviet and Russian government officials to study the distribution of Tokyo's planned 2.5 billion dollars in aid to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet foreign minister agreed in principle and promised to discuss the matter among members of the newly organized Soviet Government, the officials said.

Pankin informed Nakayama that preparations to implement the withdrawal of 30 percent of Soviet troops stationed on the islands are about to be realized, officially indicating for the first time that withdrawal plans proposed in April by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev are being carried out.

The Soviet Union deploys one army division and 40 MiG-23 fighters on the disputed islands, according to Japan's annual defense report issued in July.

Pankin also indicated that he was looking forward to the beginning of Japanese economic activities on the islands that are expected with the initiation of visa-free travel. Such travel would only require personal identification, officials added.

Kunadze Reviews Expectations

OW1410175291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 14 Oct 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Perhaps for the first time over the past decades, our Japanese partners trust us, all of which creates a solid foundation for Mr. Nakayama's talks in Moscow, said Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Georgiy Kunadze.

He told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] at the same time, that one should not be overly optimistic about the talks, as the Japanese foreign minister is only on a working visit to Moscow. Of course, this visit has both political and business goals. For instance, the two sides will discuss a programme for Japan's economic aid to Russia and the Soviet Union. Besides that, said Mr. Kunadze, one can expect the two sides to finally coordinate the procedure of exchanges between residents of the south-Kuril islands and Japanese citizens without issuing exit and entry visas. If this problem is settled such exchanges may begin before the end of the year. This is a welcome fact, said the Soviet diplomat.

Georgiy Kunadze emphasized that only after the August putsch was thwarted did the leaders of the Russian Federation receive an opportunity to pursue an independent policy, including the one in relation to Japan. It is vitally important that now that they have such an opportunity they do not try to copy the old tactics of the Union government and diplomats, whereby promises were not fulfilled. As a result, Japan has developed "a stable mistrust stereotype."

Mr. Kunadze believes that the Japanese side should be given to understand that "we are oriented to definite results and that we shall advance towards them as quickly as objective political circumstances allow." He said that the latter included the situation in this country and the public opinion. He said that previously, Japan received our diplomacy's references to public opinion as a pretext for doing nothing. Now that the leaders of the Russian Federation are talking about the moods in the republic, the Japanese side understands that this is not just a pretext for just sitting back and waiting, but an objective problem which should be overcome by means of broad explanatory work and serious talks. To quote Mr. Kunadze, general moods give both sides food for thinking about ways, rates and choice of questions to be tackled for solving our problems.

Kunadze To Head Group on Kurils

OW1410222291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze will head the Soviet-Japanese subgroup on the territorial problem as part of a working group addressing the entire body of bilateral relations.

It has been announced that an agreement on this had been reached at a Monday meeting in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama.

In the course of the meeting Pankin confirmed that the USSR planned a 30 percent cut in the troops stationed in the Kuril Islands. The Soviet minister also suggested that the state and political leaders in the two countries refrain from extreme statements that could further complicate the problem, already quite delicate.

Soviet Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said at a Moscow briefing that Mr. Nakayama had suggested setting up an ad hoc commission comprising representatives of the USSR, RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and Japan that, specifically, will be responsible for the distribution of Japan's $2.5 billion aid to the Soviet Union.

On October 15 Mr. Nakayama will meet with Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Pankin, Nakayama End Talks

LD1410201391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1920 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Bandura, Nikolay Geronin, Vasiliy Titov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Oct (TASS)—The Soviet and Japanese foreign ministers ended talks today by signing two Soviet-Japanese documents at a USSR Foreign Ministry residence on Moscow's Aleksey Tolstoy Street.

Boris Pankin and Taro Nakayama, the leaders of the two countries' foreign policy departments, signed documents on exchanging notes on reciprocal visits by Soviet citizens living on the Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup Islands and Japanese citizens and on exchanging notes on increasing the quotas of journalists permanently accredited to Japan and the USSR.

In accordance with the first of the signed documents, residents of the four islands in the Kuril chain and

Japanese citizens will be able to make group visits to the USSR and Japan without visa formalities by as early as the end of this year.

TASS correspondents learned from Soviet diplomatic sources that the sides plan to take up to 10-12 such groups annually. After studying the initial experience of organizing such visits, it is also anticipated to begin individual visits.

The document on journalist quotas allows the number of press representatives permanently accredited to the USSR and Japan to increase from 30 to 50.

USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told correspondents after signing the documents that the sides did not plan to attain any sensational, cardinal results, though they have come closer to solving all the problems between the two countries and have taken a new step in developing friendly relations. The course of work on the text of a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty was analyzed, a series of interesting steps toward further work on it was outlined, and matters of economic cooperation were discussed. I think, Boris Pankin noted, that we have prepared the soil for USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's and RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming conversations with the Japanese foreign minister.

The USSR Foreign Ministry's head thanked the Japanese side for its $2.5 billion in economic assistance to the Soviet Union. Boris Pankin drew attention to Taro Nakayama's proposal to set up a bilateral consultative group which would consider how to make the best use of these funds.

Taro Nakayama, in turn, noted that a new world order was being created as a result of the historic political and economic reforms currently taking place in the Soviet Union. He said that the task in Japanese-Soviet relations lay in resolving the territorial issue and concluding a peace treaty. We were able to have a very frank discussion of all matters on concluding a peace treaty. It is essential, the Japanese foreign minister said, to continue the Japanese-Soviet dialogue in the interests of cooperation between our countries as good neighbors and partners in a new world.

Gorbachev Receives Nakayama

LD1510102691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1008 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 15 Oct (TASS)—In the Kremlin this morning, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev received Taro Nakayama, Japanese minister of foreign affairs, who is making a working visit to our country.

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the TASS diplomatic correspondent that their conversation will focus upon a wide range of Soviet-Japanese relations, as well as topical international problems of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Peace Treaty Discussed

LD1510131691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] The Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has received Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in the Kremlin today. The talks focused on a wide range of Soviet-Japanese relations and pressing international problems. The sides discussed the prospects of signing a peace treaty between the two countries whose absence prevents bilateral relations from being completely normal. Japan is known to link a broader cooperation with the Soviet Union especially in the economic sphere with the problem of the so-called Northern Territories, a number of islands in the Kuril ridge claimed by official Tokyo.

Later in the day Taro Nakayama will meet with President of Russia Boris Yeltsin.

Gorbachev Thanks Japan for Support

OW1510114691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Moscow, Oct. 15 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government and people for supporting his country following the failed August coup by communist hard-liners, Japanese officials said.

In a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Gorbachev was quoted as saying, "I am grateful to the Japanese Government and people for the solidarity they showed in difficult times."

At the outset of the talks, Nakayama said, "the situation in the Soviet Union has dramatically changed since April when President Gorbachev visited Tokyo. But I am glad to see you again in good shape."

This was the first encounter between a Japanese cabinet member and Gorbachev in the wake of the abortive coup attempt.

Details of their discussions are not available but it is thought that they exchanged views on the long-standing territorial dispute over four Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido and Japan's economic assistance to the crumbling Soviet economy. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Must Consider 'Realities'

OW1510151191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 15 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday that he will take into account the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration in settling the long-standing territorial dispute with Japan over four Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido, Japanese officials said.

In the 1956 declaration, the Soviet Union pledged to return two of the four islands after the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries.

Gorbachev added, however, that he must also give consideration to "stern realities" concerning the islands and is groping for possible concessions on the issue under those conditions.

The Soviet president made the remarks in one-and-a-half hour meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who is on a weeklong visit to Moscow as the first Japanese cabinet minister to go there following the failed August coup by communist hardliners.

The declaration, issued in Moscow to proclaim the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, was seen as paving the way for the return of Shikotan and the Habomai Islet group to Japan. The two islands, as well as Kunashiri and Etorofu, were seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

In a 1960 memorandum, however, Moscow, angered by Japan's renewal of its security treaty with the U.S. amid an escalation of the cold war, cancelled the promise.

Since then, the Soviet Union has maintained that no territorial dispute with Japan exists, while Japan has insisted the return of the four islands en bloc is a precondition to a peace treaty.

With dramatic democratic changes in the Soviet Union advancing, high-ranking officials both in the Kremlin and the Russian Federation, which has jurisdiction over the islands, have softened their stance on the issue and even suggested readiness to hand over the islands to Japan.

In the talks, Nakayama stressed the importance for leaders of the two countries to make political decisions leading to an early solution to the problem.

Nakayama said that Japan and the Soviet Union should establish principles based on the 1956 declaration for possible return of the islands.

The Japanese foreign minister also said that Moscow and Tokyo, taking into account the 1855 Japan-Russia trade treaty which peacefully established the boundary between the two nations, should start serious negotiations on the dispute.

In response, Gorbachev said that Japan and the Soviet Union agreed to accelerate preparations to conclude a peace treaty when he visited Tokyo in April, adding that he stands loyal to the agreement.

Gorbachev praised Japan's recent announcement of a 2.5 billion dollar aid package for the Soviet Union and a bilateral agreement on visa-free travel between Japan and the four islands.

He also gave high marks to a Japanese proposal to promote dialogue on security affairs between the two nations. Nakayama made the proposal when he met with his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin on Monday.

Commenting on the possibility of economic exchanges between Japan and the four islands, Gorbachev was quoted as saying they are worth Japan's consideration. Tokyo has maintained a cautious stance on the matter.

Gorbachev added that he proposes such exchanges from the viewpoint of creating a good atmosphere for changing the relationship between the two countries.

Asked by Nakayama whether his remarks on the four islands were based on the 1956 joint declaration, Gorbachev only said that he affirms the contents of the Japan-Soviet joint communique issued during his April trip to Tokyo, the officials said.

The April communique stopped short of making specific reference to the 1956 joint declaration. It says that the two nations will make constructive and vigorous efforts to conclude preparations for a peace treaty, taking advantage of all positive elements that have been built up in bilateral negotiations in the years since Moscow and Tokyo jointly declared the restoration of diplomatic relations in 1956.

After the talks with Gorbachev, Nakayama is to meet with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Nakayama is expected to call on the Russian leaders to strengthen relations between Japan and the largest of the Soviet republics.

Near East & South Asia

Jerusalem Paper Says Pankin To Visit Israel

LD1410111291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 14 Oct 91

["Pankin and Baker Will Meet in Jerusalem"—TASS headline; by TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 14 Oct (TASS)— According to a report carried by the JERUSALEM POST newspaper, USSR Foreign Minister B. D. Pankin will arrive in Jerusalem, where U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker will be also staying, this week. The newspaper expresses the opinion that this is a question of a "symbolic gesture of partnership between the great powers on the eve of the peace conference on the Near East".

The JERUSALEM POST quotes an official from the Israeli prime minister's office as saying that Pankin will either announce the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries, which were severed in 1967, or at least will announce the intention to take this step on the eve of the conference at the end of October. It is expected, the newspaper adds, that B. D. Pankin and J. Baker, who are to meet on Friday morning, will announce their joint invitation to Israel to take part in the forthcoming forum.

Pankin, Baker 'Envisage' Meeting

OW1410173791 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1633 GMT 14 Oct 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's and U.S. State Secretary James Baker's next meeting will probably take place on October 23, in Paris, where they will arrive to participate in an international conference on Cambodia, scheduled for October 21 to 23. However, a high-ranking diplomat told DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"] that the two officials may meet later this week in the Middle East, during their Middle East tour.

Although the Soviet Foreign Ministry official refuted allegations that Mr. Pankin's and Mr. Baker's routes may cross, DP has information suggesting that the two officials envisage such a meeting. It is not ruled out that they will shake hands in Israel where the news about the restoration of relations with the Soviet Union will be announced.

The two officials' Middle East meeting is likely to concentrate on the regional peace conference which the U.S. and the USSR are currently preparing. However, according to the sources in the Foreign Ministry, the sides may also discuss problems of nuclear disarmament following George Bush's and Mikhail Gorbachev's recent initiatives and the talks held in Moscow by Under Secretary of State Mr. Reginald Bartholomew.

Pankin To Meet Egyptian Foreign Minister

LD1310194991 Moscow TASS in English
1833 GMT 13 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin]

[Text] Cairo October 13 TASS—Further efforts to secure peace in the Middle East and the role of the Soviet Union in these efforts are topics for discussion during the forthcoming visit to Cairo, on October 21 by the Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa announced today.

He said in a conversation with local and foreign journalists that further coordination was needed to determine the time and place of holding the international conference for the Middle East settlement. He pointed out that the question will be discussed with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, arriving in Cairo today.

The Egyptian minister confirmed that his country insisted on the peace for land principle as a basis for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

What is of importance to us is the achievement of peace and not the peace conference in itself, Musa said.

'Crucial' Moves Toward Mideast Talks Viewed

PM1510111391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA correspondent D. Velikiy report: "Near East: Last Consultations Before Conference"]

[Text] Cairo—The last and evidently crucial round of diplomatic meetings and political consultations before the peace conference on Arab-Israeli problems has begun.

The Syrian and Egyptian presidents had a consultative meeting in Cairo at which they clarified the sides' positions. U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker arrived in the Egyptian capital on Sunday on his eighth Near East tour. USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin is also to set off on a tour of a number of Near East countries in a few days. The heads of the U.S. and Soviet diplomatic services are scheduled to meet on Friday in Israel.

The intention is that this meeting will make a realistic assessment of the prospects of holding the peace conference. If it proves optimistic and all visible obstacles in the way of holding an international forum are removed, the U.S. diplomatic service's view is that the resumption of full USSR-Israeli diplomatic relations will be announced.

Meanwhile the question of Palestinian representation is still one of the obstacles to the conference. However, there has been some progress toward resolving this problem following a meeting in Washington between a delegation of Palestinian representatives resident in the occupied territories and the U.S. secretary of state. F. al-Husayni, leader of the Palestinian delegation, said that there had been progress following a lengthy conversation with James Baker. According to recent reports from Palestinian circles, the question of their representation may be resolved through their membership of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Israel's refusal to accept a land-for-peace formula for the talks remains another unresolved issue. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said here that the conference may not take place if this principle is not accepted. Another highly important principle on which the talks should be based is recognition of the right to equal security in the Near East for all interested parties.

Meanwhile confrontation between the conference's supporters and its opponents has drastically increased in Israel. Thus, activists from the "Peace Now" mass movement have brought a suit against the Israeli Government, charging it with unlawfully colonizing the occupied territories. Some ministers in the government itself are talking about possibly resigning. Israel's energy minister, Yu. Ne'eman, was open about this. In particular, he said that he would resign as soon as the conference begins in protest at holding talks with Palestinian representatives who back the PLO.

As for the specific date for holding the Near East peace conference, it may be announced toward the end of this week after the meeting between J. Baker and B. Pankin. Let us recall that back in July the USSR and U.S. presidents, as cochairmen of this conference, said that it was to be held in October. Since Moscow and Washington have to send invitations to the conference's participants no later than 10 days before it starts, it can obviously only start at best during the last few days of October. It is still not totally clear where the conference will be held. Switzerland has been cited most frequently of late, although offers are still coming in from countries who want to host its participants. Argentina and Greece, for instance, have recently offered their services.

Pankin, Baker Middle East Tour Plans Viewed

LD0910212691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Excerpts] It's been announced in Moscow and Washington that the Soviet foreign minister, Boris Pankin, and his American counterpart, James Baker, intend to tour a number of the Middle East countries with a view to promoting a convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Commentary is by Aleksandr Pogodin:

The foreign ministers of the two countries are facing serious problems since little time is left till the scheduled opening of the conference in the end of October, while major obstacles still remain in the way. No doubt it's important that the Soviet Union and the United States have proved themselves capable of overcoming their differences of approach to the Middle East problem and have undertaken to act as cochairmen at the planned peace conference. The world community has applauded this decision as a victory of the new political thinking in international relations. The readiness of the Soviet foreign minister and his American counterpart to travel to the Middle East is further proof that Moscow and Washington are prepared to pool their efforts to this end in future. At the same time, goodwill and Soviet-American cooperation cannot guarantee a success in the matter. No one can expect that the two powers will solve problems of other nations. This is something the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict should do themselves. But, the parties to the conflict lack goodwill, demonstrating their tough positions. This is primarily true of Israel. [passage omitted]

So, it's necessary to step up efforts to draw closer the positions of the parties to the Middle East conflict, otherwise the conference is doomed to failure. There is a hope that (?the) new move by Moscow and Washington will yield results.

East Europe

Gorbachev Assumes Mission as SFRY Mediator

Due As Early As Next Week

LD1110194591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1857 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 11 Oct (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev has assumed a mission as mediator in the matter of halting the bloody conflict between Serbia and Croatia by inviting the leaders of the two warring sides to Moscow for negotiations. This news was reinforced today by Western press reports that the presidents of Serbia and Croatia—Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman—are already preparing for their trip.

The USSR president's press service confirmed for TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin that the Serbian and Croatian leaders have been invited to Moscow and that they have responded by agreeing to this. The ideal option in the view of the president's apparat would be for Milosevic and Tudjman to sit down together at the negotiating table. However, the possibility is not ruled out that the Serbian and Croatian presidents will come separately. The press service also reported that Milosevic and Tudjman are expected in Moscow as early as next week.

Gorbachev To Hold Separate Talks

OW1410172091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Report by diplomat correspondents Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tomorrow, October 15, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman will arrive in Moscow, each one on a plane of his own, to take part in talks on settling the conflict, with Mikhail Gorbachev's mediation. On the same day, they will have separate talks with the USSR president. According to Yugoslav diplomatic sources, on October 16, Mr. Milosevic will meet with Boris Yeltsin. The talks are expected to deal not only with the situation in Yugoslavia, but also with prospects for trade between Russia and Serbia.

DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] contacts with Yugoslav representatives working in Moscow suggest that Mikhail Gorbachev's initiative to mediate in the Serbian-Croatian conflict is welcomed by the conflicting parties and that certain hopes are pinned on the Moscow talks.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry believes that Moscow has assumed an objective position on the Yugoslav conflict.

Although some of the Yugoslav quarters have qualified Mikhail Gorbachev's latest appeal to the Yugoslav leaders and the Yugoslav Federal Army as "the toughest since the Informbureau resolutions were passed," the Soviet diplomatic circles think that it should be perceived not in isolation but in conjunction with a similar appeal to the Croatian leaders.

As to the Soviet public, judging from the DP's blitz opinion poll, not all of the respondents approve of Mikhail Gorbachev's initiative to mediate in the Yugoslav conflict. Some doubt whether the head of a state which lives amid growing tension, caused by ethnic conflicts and separatist tendencies, should have taken up the job of settling other countries' disagreements. Moreover, in the opinion of many, Mikhail Gorbachev did not act as an astute politician when he tried to curb the escalation of conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and other "hot spots" of the Soviet Union.

Efforts Aimed at Dialogue

LD1410174291 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Pershin and Viktor Runov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The leaders of Serbia and Croatia will arrive here tomorrow, at the invitation of the Soviet president, to search for ways out of the bloody conflict, which has turned the Balkans into a powder-magazine of Europe.

Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman will arrive separately, at an hour interval on the same day, to meet Soviet President Gorbachev.

Sources at the Soviet president's press service said that the duration of the leaders' visits is still not determined. However, it has been scheduled that Gorbachev will meet each of them separately on October 15. The Soviet leader has taken upon himself the mediating mission to terminate the conflict.

In their turn, sources at the Soviet Foreign Ministry believe that the negotiations in Moscow may contribute to the creation of a mechanism of a dialogue that would enable the Yugoslavian crisis to escape from the deadlock. Efforts of the Soviet side are primarily aimed at that.

Tomorrow's meetings at the Kremlin will give an answer to the question whether or not Milosevic and Tudjman will sit together at the negotiations' table with Mikhail Gorbachev, and whether or not Moscow's peace-making mission will be a success.

Political & Social

State Council Session Opens on 11 October

Agenda Decisions Made

LD1110122891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1003 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Proceedings at opening of USSR State Council session chaired by USSR President M.S. Gorbachev in the Kremlin—live]

[Text] [Gorbachev] So, if you have no objections, I declare the session open and now let's go on to discussion of the agenda. Please.

[Ukrainian President Kravchuk] I propose that today we only discuss two issues, the treaty for an economic community and the draft agreement of the sovereign republics, states, on food supplies [words indistinct]. These are currently the most urgent and important issues and we need not only to discuss them but also some how to solve them. Everything else should be held over for another session. First of all there are some documents that the sitting has only received today. They are available but, first, we are not ready to discuss them, and second, there are more important matters, the two that I propose to discuss.

[Gorbachev] What do the other comrades think? [indistinct complaints are made that some people cannot hear] Comrade Kravchuk moves that the discussions be limited to two issues. First, the treaty for an economic community, and the draft agreement of the sovereign republics, states, on food supplies.

I would like to ask you once again for your agreement to discuss the third question. If you evaluate how it is drawn up I think that you will agree. It says here: On the procedure for further work on the draft treaty on a union of sovereign states. As you will recall, we reached agreement and on the basis of this accord, work was carried out by me and Boris Nikolayevich and by experts and with your agreement we sent this draft. Therefore, we need to reach agreement on how we shall continue the work on this document. Therefore, there is no question of our discussing this draft in full but let us reach agreement on the procedure for working on this. [indistinct interjection is made by a member]

Yes. You most likely have noted that it is clearly stated here: On the procedure for further work. That is, we shall need to go along the path of joint work and to reach certain stages and then we shall discuss it as an independent question in full. But it should be agreed today because we must move this question on. By the way, this proceeds from what was adopted at the Extraordinary Congress of Peoples' Deputies. It was stated there, in our decision, and in our joint statement that work should be speeded up on the treaty on the union of sovereign states. So, all of this is logically linked.

What do you think? It should be done this way? Yes? Can this be agreed? And remove the other questions? [words indistinct as several people speak at once]

So let us reach agreement. We reckoned that all the preliminary work which was carried out is understood and well known but from the point ofview of what is to be done next, and in connection with the fact that a U.S. delegation has been here and in connection with being familiar with the reaction that there has been in the world to this process, this information was taken into account in this manner: We shall not conceal the fact that we wanted to use charts to show what this is.

Well, there it is... if, and we intended that the fifth question should be an exchange of opinions so that the the proposals on the reorganization of the state security bodies. [indistinct question from a member]

It is simply that the State Council should be consulted.

And so, we have agreed on points one, two and three. I put the fourth question forward for agreement: information in connection with the statement by the president. It was intended to hear Comrade Shaposhnikov and Comrade Pankin. What do you reckon? Or should we see whether we have enough time or not? [murmurs of consent from members]

That's what we should do? Fine. On the fifth point, on the reorganization of the state security bodies. The same for this one? [indistinct questions from members]

No, an exchange of opinions. It is just that here we set up a commission in connection with the fact that at the Congress we adopted a decision to reorganize the state security bodies, the comrades should have expressed their thoughts here and your positions should have been elucidated and the final proposals about this should have been put forward. [indistinct intervention by a member]

For the agenda? Yes? Fine. We have agreed on that. Good. Let us reach agreement. We are having an important meeting today. I would like to say a few words before we continue with our work, before we move on to discussing the questions on the agenda.

Are we going to make a television recording of this meeting of the State Council or shall we limit ourselves to the normal reports in the usual way that we have had up to now?

[Unidentified members] The usual way.

[Gorbachev] The usual way. We are not going to broadcast it in full?

[Members] No.

[Gorbachev] No. So that's how it is. Comrades from the television, thank you.

So, what would I like to say in brief as an address? Comrades, I really think that we have assembled for a very important meeting of the State Council. It seems to me that we all understand this. In general, I regard it as extremely important. I am moved to say a few words about the serious disquiet which exists in society about the way the situation is developing in our country and the way that processes are moving and how we are acting in this real situation. Society is very attentively following the activity of the State Council and the activity of the present Union structures and other structures and republican ones.

When, after the coup we were faced with the threat of the disintegration of the state... [relay breaks off in midsentence]

Gorbachev Opens Session

LD1110140891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1252 GMT 11 Oct 91

[By special TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Oct [TASS]— A session of the USSR Council of State opened in the Kremlin today under President Mikhail Gorbachev's chairmanship. The leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine are taking part in the session. A draft agreement on an economic community and a draft agreement on foodstuffs to be concluded among republics are to be discussed. The participants in the session will exchange views on the order of work yet to be done on a draft treaty on a union of sovereign states.

Opening the session, the USSR president said: "When as a result of the August putsch we came to face a danger that the state would fall apart and that society would disintegrate, the leaders of the republics and the president, aware of their responsibility and role, succeeded in preventing the events developing according to the worst-case scenario by issuing a joint statement. Thanks to this it was found possible to arrive at decisions of fundamental import at the fifth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. On this basis the economic treaty and the food agreement have been prepared and the work on a treaty on the union of sovereign states has been resumed. Democratic reforms have been given a boost through joint efforts. All in all, there are grounds to speak of substantial progress since the congress. This is our achievement.

"One must, however, be frank. We are all experiencing strong pressure, moreover, coming from various directions and various positions. There is an attempt to set members of the Council of State against one another, to sow suspicion of one another, to impede in any possible way the adoption of the documents drafted on the basis of positions agreed upon at the congress.

"People's patience has reached the limit. One can say that they have one last hope left: that following the events that took place in August, the Council of State will act resolutely, as we promised, and that it will make decisions in keeping with the vital needs of the country and the people. This is why the current session of the Council of State is taking on an exceptionally important significance."

Speaking on the issue of an economic community, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said that the text of the treaty, presented today, was submitted to the meeting in Alma-Ata where, in his view, the main problems and positions of the republics were made to tally with one another.

Yeltsin, Yavlinskiy Speak

LD1110174691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1336 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 11 Oct (TASS)—After the Alma-Ata meeting a sharp discussion of the main fundamental provisions of the treaty on economic community has begun in the republics, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said. Quite a few remarks and objections have been received.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy described the objections by republics to individual provisions of the treaty. Specifically, he focused on the premise that "it is easier to find a way out of a situation which has taken place on one's own and a joint economic agreement will not be efficient". "Not a single republic has either means or possibilities for this today, he said. A collapse of the monetary system and a fall in production and unemployment will follow. In the economist's view, the broader the economic space is, the more likely it is that a way out of any critical situation will be found. After all, more than 90 percent of the country's production is not competitive.

Boris Yeltsin took the floor. He said that by 15 October, Russia would be ready to sign the treaty. However, in order for this to happen, it is necessary that the agreements provided for by this treaty should be made ready and that financing of economic bodies not provided for by this agreement should cease.

From his point of view, it is necessary to review the question of banks, that is, the republican banks directly subordinate to the central one. It is necessary to arrive at more flexible forms of ties between banks.

During a discussion, practically all the participants in the sessions favored the signing by 15 October of a treaty on an economic agreement. It was stressed at the same time that republics will sign and ratify economic agreements as they see fit.

At the same time, it was stated that the agreements the present treaty provides for should be readied within a month.

'Agreement Will Be Signed'

LD1110211191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Video report by correspondent A. Shashkov of USSR State Council meeting held in Moscow on 11 October, including recorded remarks by Ivan Silayev, chairman of the interrepublican economic committee, outside the meeting; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [video shows meeting of State Council in progress] At its meeting today, under the chairmanship of Mikhail Gorbachev, the State Council discussed the question—one which has already become rhetorical—of how to proceed. The first step on the road to creating a new union of politically independent but economically interdependent republics was provided by the decision in principle to sign by 15 October the treaty on the economic community, which was drafted in Alma-Ata.

Stressing the importance of this step, Ivan Silayev, chairman of the interrepublican economic committee, said:

[Silayev] [video shows Silayev speaking outside the meeting] The agreement will be signed—the treaty on the economic community. This is a very important starting condition for an optimistic prognosis. Beyond that, we have to adopt more than 15 specific agreements filling out its various points. I would like to recall Article 5, Chapter 2 of the treaty, which says that the parties—if I remember the text correctly—recognize that economic development is possible provided there is private property, free enterprise, and free competition. So, I believe that if we organize our work correctly in these three areas, and in integrated collaboration with the West, then prosperity can be guaranteed.

[Shashkov] [video shows groups of State Council members in conversation in corridors] Following a short break, members of the State Council encountered no obstacles to signing a treaty on food supplies to the country for next year. As for the text of a union treaty, it was decided that all proposals should be collated rapidly, and the resulting draft should then be signed and submitted to the republics for their ratification. Separate invitations to participate in elaborating the treaty have been sent to the parliament of the Ukraine, and also to those of Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova, whose sovereignty—unlike that of the Baltic republics—has not yet been recognized by the State Council.

Yeltsin 'Clear Cut Strategy'

PM1310152391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by S. Razin: "Agreed?"]

[Text] The USSR State Council, which met in the Kremlin yesterday, was held behind closed doors. Journalists who were specially invited to cover very important problems were searched three times but still were not admitted to the sessions hall.

"An accord was reached today that the economic agreement will be signed before 15 October. No republic will be able to live in isolation," I. Silayev was clearly in an optimistic mood when he answered journalists' questions during the break. According to him, Yeltsin confirmed Russia's position stated at the recent meeting of premiers in Alma-Ata. True, the Russian president did lay down two conditions: The banking system must be more flexible than provided for in the draft and, after signing, this agreement must be ratified in parliament. The priority package of documents necessary for ratification will be prepared within a month.

The economic agreement will be signed by at least 10 republics—which will open up a direct path to the conclusion of their political union. The republics' proposals will be submitted to the State Council within 10 days—after which work will begin on coordinating the union treaty.

True, it it not yet quite clear whether Yeltsin will insist on Russia's being the successor in law to the former Union. The existence of two positions on this problem in the Russian parliament leaves the president with room to maneuver. In any case, the impression is created that Yeltsin will benefit from the game which has been started up on the one hand by Vice Premier Ye. Saburov and on the other by State Secretary G. Burbulis. It seems that observers were wrong to be in a hurry to accuse the Russian president of lacking a clear-cut strategy...

Adopted Resolutions Issued

LD1110202191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1920 GMT 11 Oct 91

["The Resolutions of the USSR State Council Session": TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Oct (TASS)—A session of the USSR State Council took place in the Kremlin today.

The official report states that the following resolutions were adopted on the discussed issues:

1. On the treaty about an economic community.

The heads of state and of governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Kazakh SSR, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, and the Republics of Uzbekistan and the Ukraine have agreed to sign the treaty on an economic community, which was initialed at Alma-Ata, before 15 October, taking into account the additional proposals put forward at the session of the State Council. Working groups including the authorized representatives of the sovereign states are to prepare the primary agreements needed for the ratification of this treaty.

2. On the draft agreement between the sovereign states regarding the provision of foodstuffs for 1992.

It has been resolved to approve the draft agreement and to complete work upon it, taking into account the discussion. The heads of government are to be instructed to determine the payment schedule for inter-republican deliveries and the import of foodstuffs and are to sign the agreement.

3. On preparations for the treaty on a union of sovereign states.

It has been agreed that members of the State Council have 10 days to report any observations from the republics on the draft presented, after which the heads of state are to carry out conclusive work on its preparation.

4. On the reorganization of the USSR Committee for State Security.

In line with the changes taking place in the country's national and state set-up and the need to ensure reliable guarantees for the rights and interests of citizens, a decision has been made on reforming the USSR state security bodies.

The State Council considered it necessary for the purpose of eliminating the existing monopoly in the sphere of ensuring state security to abolish the USSR KGB and, on the basis of its subunits, to form an independent central intelligence service, an inter-republican counterintelligence service, and a state committee for guarding the state border with a unified border troop command. Relevant proposals will be submitted for consideration by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

5. On the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

For the purpose of ensuring statewide television and radio broadcasting as an element of a unified information space and taking account of the new character of the relationship between the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company and the republican television and radio broadcasting organizations, the USSR State Council considered it necessary to draw up a corresponding agreement in a general package of appendices to the treaty on the economic community.

It is deemed expedient within one week to determine measures for allocating time in central television programs for each republic.

6. On the Soviet position with respect to nuclear disarmament.

The members of the State Council expressed support for the parallel initiatives of the United States and the USSR in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. A plan of action to implement the specific measures contained in the USSR president's statement was approved.

Yakovlev on Results

LD1110220491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Remarks by Yegor Yakovlev, member of the USSR Presidential Political Consultative Council, on results of the 11 October State Council session held in Moscow; from the "TV Inform" newscast presented by V. Stepanyuk—recorded]

[Text] The meeting, the session to be more precise, of the State Council has just ended. It lasted almost five hours. After Mikhail Sergeyevich's opening speech, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy spoke on the issue of the economic agreement, since Yavlinskiy directed all the preparatory work. He based his speech on talking about those objections to an economic treaty which probably have intensified during the last two weeks. These were fully covered by MOSKOVSKAYA GAZETA and other parts of the mass media. As a result, one theory was run out after another.

Yavlinskiy also spoke about the necessity of concluding a treaty as soon as possible. Yavlinskiy said that today everything ends in treaties. Could we not at least once do it the other way round—conclude a treaty, not allowing war in the hot points that are in the country.

It must be said that all Yavlinskiy's positions were adopted on the whole practically without objection, excluding questions. This in itself was suprising for me because, frankly speaking, we went to this session with heavy hearts. This was due to the fact that the light of hope that we must at last agree on something which appeared after Alma-Ata, in general, began more and more to be eroded by doubts and objections with regard to an economic agreement.

The speech by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was even more unexpected for me. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said in Alma-Ata, participating in the talks as the plenipotentiary Russian representative, that Russia considers it is necessary to sign an agreement as soon as possible. Boris Nikolayevich introduced a number of amendments to the text and said that work on those proposals which are to be in the economic agreement must be completed as soon as possible, and in principle he also supports the idea of signing on 15 October. Full stop.

But what to do now with the speeches by Russian ministers, including the Russian Council of Ministers, who think Russia will lose by this economic agreement, that it is not advantageous for Russia? Forget them? We probably should not forget them. We should not forget them because today this is, on the whole, an example of how the talks process, at least somewhat planned, can be crushed suddenly by an explosion of ambitions, the desire to express one's point of view, and by not thinking about the fact that sometimes the talks process is probably more important than any other statements.

Silayev on Food Agreement

OW1110213691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the session of the State Council, Chairman of the Inter-Republican Economic Committee, Ivan

Silayev, spoke about the conclusion of an inter-republican agreement on food supplies for 1992.

He said that the draft document changes the procedure of shaping inter-republican food resources. This time, he said, the centralized fund takes into account only the needs of defence, closed cities and also Moscow and state reserves. Thus, the share of resources, supplied to the centralized fund stands at about 12.8 percent of the total volume of the republics' average food production over the past five years. Whereas previously the centralized fund had 68 million tons [as received] of grain, now the document envisages only 13.9 million tons.

The draft agreement is based on the actual volumes of food imports and exports for 1992 in each of the sovereign republics. Besides that, for the first time ever, it envisages sanctions for failing to fulfil the agreement signed. For instance, a supplier will have to compensate the cost of the undersupplied produce in hard currency and at world prices. If the republic has no hard currency it may face curtailment of imports worth this sum in hard currency.

Ivan Silayev also said that the USSR would have to import 48.7 million tons of grain to meet its needs.

During the discussion some of the republican leaders strongly criticized some of the provisions. The ones concerning sanctions for undersupplying produce and also mutual settlements aroused many objections. In this connection, the heads of the republics' governments were instructed to gather in Moscow on October 12 to discuss the disputable issues.

Details of Food Agreement

LD1110180491 Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 11 TASS—The Soviet State Council today heard a report on the draft agreement on food supplies to the country in 1992 made by chairman of the Soviet economic management committee Ivan Silayev. He noted that the latest version of the draft, which evoked a heated debate at the previous meeting of the State Council, now reflected the real intentions of republics to supply foodstuffs".

The draft sets out measures to coordinate prices for farm produce, as at the moment different prices are being charged for the same type of product in different regions. A system of sanctions is being established for the failure to honour contract obligations to supply. One of the sanctions is a fine at world market prices in freely convertible currency.

As regards purchases of grain in other countries, it is planned to buy 48.7 million metric tons of grain, worth 11.1 billion roubles.

Grain will be supplied to republics taking into account their per capita consumption.

Most speakers at the meeting insisted that the republics should not stick to world prices in exchanges among themselves but should agree on prices in every case separately.

As the State Council turned to discuss prospects for finalizing the union treaty, the question was raised in connection with the decision by the Ukrainian parliament to abstain from active participation in political life of the Union until December 1.

On the initiative of President Mikhail Gorbachev, it was decided to approach the Supreme Soviet of that republic with the proposal that it take part in the preparation of the union treaty. Similar appeals will be made to the parliaments of Armenia, Georgia and Moldavia, whose sovereignty has not yet been recognised by the State Council.

Further on Food Agreement

LD1210161691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1454 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Petukhov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Oct—"I have no doubt the food agreement will be signed on 14 or 15 October by the heads of governments of the republics," Ivan Silayev, head of the Committee for the Operational Management of the USSR National Economy, told journalists today. He was holding a conference today with the heads of governments of the sovereign republics to discuss the draft agreement on food supply in the year 1992. Also taking part in the meeting were heads of governments of the Baltic states.

Ivan Silyaev pointed out that, although there was heated discussion on some questions during the talks, the agreement in principle to sign the treaty on economic community, whose agreement was adopted at the State Council yesterday, determined the success of today's conference. At the present time, he said, each republic realizes that it will not succeed in emerging from the grave economic crisis on its own. It is very important that the situation has changed completely, and there is no coercion on the question of signing the treaty.

Answering a question on his possible successor to the post of Russian prime minister, Ivan Silayev pointed out that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has not yet made a decision. This question, he said, among others, will discussed during our meeting with the Russian president next week.

Problems With Food Agreement

PM1410213591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by M. Petrov: "Republics Have Almost Agreed on Food. It Only Remains To Reach Agreement With the Peasants"]

[Text] The draft food agreement among the sovereign republics, which was discussed in the State Council on 11 October and at the conference of heads of government on 12 October, will most likely be signed at the beginning of this week. According to Russian Agriculture Minister G. Kulik, the fundamental disagreements which only a week ago were preventing agreement from being reached no longer exist.

The draft has been distributed today for signing. The urgency is perfectly explicable. Further delay jeopardizes too many things: the course of import deliveries during the time remaining until the end of this year, the transportation of goods from the major ports, which have now become the property of the sovereign states.

And so, the former Union republics have agreed on the main thing. First, to preserve the procedure that existed until recently for deliveries into the interrepublic (former Union) fund, from which the Army, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and so-called closed cities are supplied and the food reserve is formed. The delivery terms and prices will be agreed additionally by a special interrepublic commission. Second, it has been decided to leave in force also the regulations governing centralized purchases of food and plant-protection agents and external transactions on credit. This measure will make it possible to restore at least somewhat Western creditors' confidence in us, which has been badly shaken recently.

The third fundamental point on which agreement has been reached is that foodstuffs must be moved throughout the territory of the former Union without hindrance and without duties, using all forms of transportation.

It has been decided to leave unchanged the prices of basic kinds of food which will be supplied to the interrepublic fund, at least through the middle of 1992. In transactions with the republics, however, it is proposed to introduce coefficients which will take account of the actual expenditure. This most likely means that a new spiral of food prices is not that remote a prospect. To encourage the peasants, the republic governments will be forced to raise the purchase prices, and this in turn will inevitably lead to higher consumer prices. Which, in fact, is already happening.

Thus, the signing of the agreement in no way removes the acuteness of the food problem. Whereas only yesterday all the responsibility for supplying the population with foodstuffs was "piled" onto Union organs, today the governments of sovereign states will be forced to adopt unpopular decisions.

And so, the republics have reached agreement. One "small" thing is lacking: to restore the peasant's confidence in state structures (it is all the same which ones—Union or sovereign).

IZVESTIYA on Session

PM1310211391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by A. Stepovoy: "Leaders of 10 Republics Advocate Signing Economic Community Treaty. State Council Decides To Abolish KGB"]

[Text] Until recently photographs of state leaders were an indispensable feature on a newspaper's front page. Time has broken this "tradition." Today, however, we publish a photograph of the country's leaders—the participants in the USSR State Council session which opened at midday 11 October. [Uncaptioned TASS-attributed photograph accompanies report.] In our view, this is not a return to the past. It is a quite different photograph. It enables people to understand better what kind of work is going on in the Kremlin. Let us look at the faces of these people whose attention is riveted on the session documents. In a few hours' time they have to adopt very important decisions...

"People's patience is coming to an end. They are left with the final hope, you might say, that the State Council, after what happened in August, will act decisively, just as we have promised. Adopt decisions that accord with the vital needs of the country and the people." These words were spoken in the USSR president's brief speech which opened the session of the country's State Council.

Participating in the session's work were State Council members: B. Yeltsin, president of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]; L. Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet; S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus; I. Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan; N. Nazarbayev, president of the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]; and A. Mutalibov, president of the Azerbaijan Republic. Also at the session table were G. Kuznetsov, vice president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan; A. Iskandarov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan; S. Muradov, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet; prime ministers—chairmen of republic councils of ministers—V. Fokin (Ukraine), U. Karamanov (Kazakhstan), G. Gasanov (Azerbaijan), N. Isanov (Kyrgyzstan), and I. Khayeyev (Tajikistan); G. Bagratyan, acting chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers; and others.

The first item on the State Council session agenda was the treaty on economic community. A report on this question was delivered by G. Yavlinskiy, deputy leader of the committee for the operational management of the USSR national economy. He said that the text of the submitted treaty was examined in Alma-Ata, where the republics' basic positions were agreed. After that, however, debates got under way in many capitals of sovereign republics on the most fundamental provisions of this treaty. Yavlinskiy rejected in a clear and well-reasoned way all the arguments against the agreed document. He drew the session participants' attention to the fact that the price of isolation will exceed all the apparent advantages many times over. And ordinary people will have to pay this high price. The opinion is widespread that it will be easier to emerge from the present situation one by one and that the economic agreement will not be effective enough. Yavlinskiy said the following in reply to this: Not one republic has either the means or the potential for this today. And it is not hard to guess what will happen: the total collapse of the monetary system, a fall in production, unemployment. An analysis of the economic situation gave him the right to say to the members of the State Council: Today is decisive for this document.

The leaders of the states and governments still had to speak. RSFSR President Yeltsin declared that Russia is ready, as planned, to sign the treaty by 15 October. But he had comments on the terms for signing the document. Thus, Yeltsin believes that, for this, the agreements provided for in this treaty must be prepared. It is also necessary to stop funding those economic organs which are not provided for in this agreement and those organs to which Russia has not granted powers. He believes that it is necessary to reexamine the question of the banking system and that new forms of relations between banks are needed: The direct subordination of republic banks to the central bank is not perceived. More flexible forms of banking ties are needed. But Yeltsin left the date for signing this treaty the same as before—by 15 October.

President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was in a more decisive mood: Whoever wants to think about whether or not to sign the document agreed on in Alma-Ata—that is his business. But the economic agreement must be signed within the time stipulated and by those who are ready to do so without additional provisos.

During the debate practically all the session participants advocated that the treaty be signed by the planned date.

Only President Mutalibov of Azerbaijan expressed a special opinion on the question under discussion. He said in the State Council that the people of the republic, finding themselves on the verge of despair, might oppose any treaty or agreement unless we deliver them from aggression. Mutalibov reported that the republic's Supreme Soviet has demanded the creation of its own armed forces adequate for the defense of its own territory. Therefore Azerbaijan will only sign the treaty when the Army has handed over everything necessary to the armed forces that are to be created.

In the end, the heads of the 10 states and governments (representatives of Georgia and Moldova did not participate in the State Council session) agreed to sign by 15 October the treaty on economic community initialed in Alma-Ata with due regard for agreeing the additional proposals made at the session. Working groups which include the sovereign states' plenipotentiary representatives have been entrusted with preparing within one month the immediate agreements needed to ratify the treaty.

Other questions were also examined at the 11 October State Council session. A draft agreement among the sovereign states on food supplies in 1992 was approved. The heads of government were entrusted with determining the accounting procedure with regard to food imports and with signing the agreement.

The State Council analyzed the work which has been done to prepare the treaty on the union of sovereign states. An accord was reached that the State Council members will report within 10 days their comments on the draft that has been submitted, after which collective work on agreeing it will begin.

The next item on the agenda was the reorganization of the USSR KGB. In accordance with the changes occurring in the country's national-state system and the need to ensure reliable guarantees of citizens' rights and interests, a decision was adopted to reform the USSR's state security organs. The State Council deemed it necessary to abolish the USSR KGB for the purpose of eliminating the monopolism which has taken shape in the sphere of ensuring state security. An independent central intelligence service, an interrepublic counterintelligence service, and a state committee for the protection of the state border with a united border troop command will be formed on the basis of KGB subunits.

A decision was also adopted on the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. The State Council entrusted the interrepublic economic committee with implementing measures to finance the activity of the All-Union State Television and Radio Company and to provide it with material and technical supplies, as well as ensuring a system for the guaranteed delivery of its television programs throughout the country's territory.

The State Council members voiced support for the parallel initiatives of the United States and the USSR in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. A plan of action to realize the specific measures contained in the USSR president's statement was approved.

With this the State Council session ended.

Economic Community Accord Signing Postponed

LD1410170991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] The signing of the economic community agreement planned for 15 October cannot take place on that day for a number of reasons, reports TASS. Agreements accompanying this act, in particular, an interrepublican treaty on a banking system, are still not ready. According to Ivan Silayev, committee chairman for the operational management of the country's economy, the signing will most probably take place on Friday. Prior to that, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Yevgeniy Saburov will have to complete the draft banking agreement.

Silayev on Postponement

LD1410185191 Moscow TASS in English 1832 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The signing of an agreement on economic community, which has been scheduled for October 15, has been postponed, said Ivan Silayev, head of the Soviet Committee for the Management of the National Economy.

The signing ceremony will most likely be held on Friday, October 18.

In words of Silayev, one of the reasons for the postponement is that not all the accompanying agreements have been prepared, including the inter-republican treaty on banking system, the draft of which is expected to be ready by October 18.

Silayev's statement was provoked by the fact that not a single practicable project to increase the inflow of republican revenues to the Union budget, which is suffering an enormous deficit, had been submitted for the committee's consideration.

In this connection, Deputy Committee Chairman Yury Luzhkov sharply criticized heads of the Ministries of Finance and the Economy. Luzhkov said that various forms of the removal of idle money from enterprises and the commercialization of trade may contribute to the reduction of the budget deficit.

The Committee has decided to call on the Soviet president to issue a decree on the Soviet State Bank's granting of a 25 billion ruble credit to the Ministry of Finance.

Gorbachev Interviewed on State Council, Changes

LD1310080591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1940 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Interview with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev by Yegor Yakovlev, head of the Soviet Television and Radio Company; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, Central Television plans to run a series of interviews with the leaders of the republics and independent states. The natural desire is to launch this series of interviews and conversations, with you. Hence my request for today's meeting.

[Gorbachev] I understand.

[Yakovlev] Shall we begin?

[Gorbachev] Yes.

[Yakovlev] Opening the latest State Council session, you said that we all had to stay in the hall and not leave until we had reached some kind of consensus on an economic agreement. I listened to you and understood that you were fed up with this issue, because of the way you phrased your remarks. Tell me, what thoughts did you carry with you to that session? What was irritating you? What did you expect? What did you bring out of the session?

[Gorbachev] You detected from my brief opening speech what my feelings were as I embarked on that session. Indeed, I felt that it had to be said. You know, I had the feeling that we would, after the August coup, end up facing very serious dangers. This was then sensed by the public. It was conveyed to the politicians, and we developed very important documents. I mean the declaration...

[Yakovlev, interrupting]...the Union.

[Gorbachev, continuing]...the declaration, the congress resolutions on the basis of this declaration. This had a decisive impact. Somehow, people calmed down, to an extent, and began to hope that things would change, that the most terrible things would not happen.

[Yakovlev] I do not think that they calmed down, but the hope did arise.

[Gorbachev] Perhaps so. Perhaps that is more accurate. Time goes by, and it seems that there is a foundation in the declaration and the decisions. They touched upon the most important things—the necessity to accelerate the work on the union treaty, on an economic union, on our approach, how we view the Armed Forces, defense, our foreign policy. That is, everything needed for us to act was there. Time marches on.

[Yakovlev] And everything is at a standstill.

[Gorbachev] And everything is at a standstill. You know, I had some very serious worries in this connection. It is not enough to say that time marches on and everything is standing still. Negative processes not only remain but the situation is even getting worse. In the economy, since cooperation is not up and running between the republics...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] It is not there at all.

[Gorbachev] Right, and the recession, which affects people's lives, their incomes, and everything. Not only today, but tomorrow, too.

That is what actually worried me. I did indeed say those words. They engraved themselves on my memory. But even now I feel that we simply shouldn't have dispersed from that State Council meeting, especially as you saw the day before the passions that again had been raised.

[Yakovlev] Well, yes, because...

[Gorbachev] And clashes of views.

[Yakovlev] In Alma-Ata it appeared that there were 12 signatures on the economic agreement.

[Gorbachev] Yes.

[Yakovlev] Everybody became hopeful.

[Gorbachev] Yes.

[Yakovlev] But between Alma-Ata and yesterday's State Council meeting everything slipped away again.

[Gorbachev] Yes. Well, in this connection, how do I assess the results of the meeting? I think that this... [changes thought] no doubt all the comrades arrived for the meeting in the same mood. In the morning I spoke to Boris Nikolayevich after his return from vacation. We surveyed the situation. We spoke. I spoke to Comrade Nazarbayev. I spoke to Kravchuk, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the previous day. I spoke to Shushkevich and many others. They all had points to make the whole time. During the conversations, approaches and evaluations were compared, because this was a very important meeting. On the whole I got the impression that these comrades feel the same way I do, have the same worries.

[Yakovlev] For me, personally, Boris Nikolayevich's speech was, so to speak, a pleasant surprise. I did not know what his position on the economic agreement was. But prior to that I had read endless speeches by Russian ministers. The Russian Council of Ministers considered that the economic agreement could not go ahead in that form.

[Gorbachev] Let me be frank, this position was not a surprise to me, because earlier, on the eve of the Alma-Ata meeting... after all, we had even been planning to travel there. We had the impression that the agreement could actually be signed there.

[Yakovlev] Yes.

[Gorbachev] Then, a day or two before it, we realized that we would, after all, have to go through the stage of heads of government. That is why it was examined in Alma-Ata at precisely that level.

[Yakovlev] You and Boris Nikolayevich both support the draft?

[Gorbachev] Yes, yes, yes. Then we agreed that we would, after all, have a final, concluding meeting in Moscow. Nevertheless, the position of Russia's is a responsible one. It is constructive and, I would say, a uniting factor, a uniting one. That is the first result. It is a pleasant thing for me to note this. It made it possible to agree on the economic treaty. I asked all the leaders to take the floor and state their position. All of them supported this.

[Yakovlev] [words indistinct] signed on 15 October?

[Gorbachev] On 15 October. The people must know. We have spoken out for the retention of a single all-Union economic area, an all-Union market. We have agreed on the principles by which the economy will function in the framework of this single area. We have agreed on cooperation. That is very important. It means all our producers receive a point of support in their work. Of course that treaty won't work immediately. But the very fact that it will be, that the agreement will be signed, will have an enormous effect. The treaties will now be concluded, and economic ties set up, in other words this will impart vigor to, well, to the whole economic...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] That will be natural on a market basis.

[Gorbachev] That's right, that's right. You have pointed out that that is precisely what was in question. There are fewer and fewer positions left that are controlled and regulated administratively. Increasingly, economic mechanisms are being brought in. And that whole document is drawn up in that way. A new environment is being created for the production of commodities.

[Yakovlev] And the document—naturally interaction among the republics.

[Gorbachev] Yes, yes. And so that's very important. I think it's important for everyone and for the whole country. From the point of view of the economy, from the point of view of the social consequences. And I think all our comrades who work in the economic sphere have received, so to speak, a reliable foundation.

[Yakovlev] Natural ties are not established quickly. Artificial ones can be carried out quickly, but natural ones... [trails off]

[Gorbachev] I have to say that until this treaty produces results—those that we are counting on—in principle it's something that's going to take time.

[Yakovlev] Tying in with this is yesterday's discussion and the results [words indistinct] the food agreement.

[Gorbachev] Yes. I will even go somewhat beyond what was said about this yesterday. At yesterday's State Council we had the task of adopting an agreement addressing the question of how we will get through the winter and spring till the new harvest. That's the task.

[Yakovlev] [sentence indistinct]

[Gorbachev] Well, I want to try to answer that question, too. This was dictated by the fact that after all, we're not satisfied with the results of the agricultural year, especially regarding grain. Some of our very major commodity regions have fallen short by large amounts. Even Kazakhstan which used to hand over up to 10 million tonnes to the Union fund, Kazakhstan—you heard yesterday, Comrade Nazarbayev said that even he is in need of grain. The situation is acute and serious. We worked for a long time on this and examined... and it's now clearer what we'll have at home, how animal husbandry will develop under the conditions that we have, and on that basis the second part was worked out, which was entered as an integral element, what we need to get from cooperation with the Western countries. I had to say that this program of how to live through the winter and spring, this is what the agreement is directed at. I think that we have attained a realistic document, it will require great efforts, and of course, we are counting on support.

[Yakovlev] You know, the viewers are listening to us, or watching, and they don't believe it. You understand...

[Gorbachev, interrupting] I understand you.

[Yakovlev, continuing] ...because there have been so many documents and agreements during this period, well, another economic agreement, another food agreement, do you see? But a wife comes home and says she's been to 15 dairy shops and can't get any sour cream. That's in Moscow, and in other towns.

[Gorbachev] Yes, if the food question—and I'm not now talking merely about the winter and spring, the period up to the next harvest—if the food question is not resolved very soon, then it will be difficult to count on the success of all the reforms and transformations. For these reforms to succeed there are prequisites, and one of these is a reliable food base. This period, up to the next harvest, is the concern of this agreement. I have to say that we have set the following goal. There is no possibility of raising the level of food supplies before the next harvest. So the task of this food agreement is to preserve what we have, to preserve what we have achieved this year.

[Yakovlev] [Words indistinct]...

[Gorbachev, interrupting] But you are right, and this is my point of view: A country like ours, with such great resources, land and other resources, must set itself the task of ending imports in the next few years. We have real opportunities to achieve this. What is needed, I think, on this basis, thoroughly... [changes thought] What do we have to deal with thoroughly? To get land reform moving, we need to make the peasant very interested, and for this we need to change property relations thoroughly, his possibilities to manage things in the countryside and to dispose of his products. Currently we have prescribed everything for him on all the main products, where it should go, and at what price, and what and when to do it. And so...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] Again.

[Gorbachev] But that's the way everything still is, and from the best of motives, supposedly so as to keep control of the food situation. But in actual fact we are constraining the agricultural producers' initiative. That's the first thing, this question has to be resolved—the question of land and property. The second thing: We have to make the peasant interested so he may aspire for more output. If we don't meet the peasant in providing him with a flow of goods, then he has no desire to earn this money, to increase his production, or to increase his income, because there is nothing to spend it on. He can't build a house. He cannot buy a car, he cannot buy producer goods. And all the rest. Here we have to think about how to direct entire industries into providing commodities for the countryside. Otherwise, there will be no motivation there to work, to produce more and derive greater income.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, you are from Stavropol.

[Gorbachev] That is correct.

[Yakovlev] I would think that the concept of land reform is nearer to your heart than to that of a city dweller. In general it is clearly making no headway. You yourself can see how long this land reform has been in existence [words indistinct] it is absolutely, completely clear.

[Gorbachev] I think that there are several reasons. The first, all the same, lies in everything that has been done to our peasantry which in effect has destroyed both their motivation and independence; these foundations were undermined. And it is not so simple, Yegor Vladimirovich, to revive them. Atfter all, entire generations have really been excluded from this system [word indistinct].

[Yakovlev] I understand.

[Gorbachev] That was first. Second. I think that everything linked to receiving land, with applying for machinery...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev, continuing] ...yes, for the right to dispose of the results of one's labor. Now, all this should be resolved through legislation. Moreover, mechanisms should be created that cannot fail the individual, simply cannot. Currently, it is the leader of a collective or state farm who makes the decisions. A rayon soviet can decide. And this concerns the mechanism. But there is something else.

[Yakovlev] I want to give a practical example. Today the man who works on the land...

[Gorbachev, interrupting] I will finish...

[Yakovlev, continuing] ...is more beholden to the chairman of the rural soviet than to the president of the USSR.

[Gorbachev] I would say, not to the chairman of the rural soviet but the chairman of the collective farm or the rayon executive committee.

[Yakovlev] Right, [words indistinct]

[Gorbachev] Committees should be set up to deal specifically with a land reform that does not tie this highly active and important process up in red tape. People themselves should resolve this issue. They should decide whether to give Yakovlev or Gorbachev some land. Since Yakovlev does not know what to do with land, best not to give him any. But Gorbachev does have a clue...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] And they will think about Chernichenko.

[Gorbachev] Yes. [both chuckle] It is very important to find such a mechanism. Because we need builders who build on the land, and farmers and collective farms that create new... exempt them, at least for two-three years, from all kinds of tax. Let building investment be channeled to where people can use it. And, well, issue by issue, that is how we need to approach it. You see, the country needs to create an environment in which business activity...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] Without this...

[Gorbachev, continuing] ...and motivation are set in motion. This is the principal direction. That's the main direction. But cherish no illusions, Yegor Vladimirovich, nor should we all cherish any illusions.

[Yakovlev] But life is sad without any illusions!

[Gorbachev] No, there are hopes, just you foster hopes. You know, the situation has changed. And further, we shall have no reliable supply of foodstuffs. You've touched on a really sore topic there, and I want to have my say on that quite definitely. There must be a food industry, there must be a processing industry. And finally, our cooperative sector must have vehicles, refrigerators, it must have goods to satisfy the peasants. If we can have all that, then we will have more of everything. Everything is simply rotting away [words indistinct] because we cannot take the food away from the peasant on the farm.

[Yakovlev] Life's experience has shown that nothing comes of administrative methods.

[Gorbachev] Absolutely, only economic methods work. That is why the incentives and decisions we make at the legislative and executive level must be aimed at that. If anyone thinks that we can make any radical changes in the situation using administrative measures—that's what the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] hoped, that they would take over, guide the situation. And there were even some people, too, who thought that this would save...

[Yakovlev, interrupting] Some people had an interest in it.

[Gorbachev] But in order to have a reliable base, a reliable food supply, we need to fashion things anew.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, no matter how acute the question of food is, it seems that for the majority of people the question of state-wide stability is more acute. I want therefore to return to yesterday's, er, that is, the last session of the State Council. Well, I understand that the economic agreement has great political significance, because it is, er, political significance like the negotiations themselves.

[Gorbachev] One cannot separate the two.

[Yakovlev] So, yesterday the union treaty was once again discussed. We have already said many times that it will be concluded in a month's time, and then all at once... [changes thought] And the 18th did indeed happen, when everything seemed to be close at hand. So how do you feel about this, where is the union treaty at now, in terms of time scale?

[Gorbachev] You know, I in fact share the view that these processes, the process connected with the drawing up and preparation of the economic treaty, and political union, or the treaty on the union of sovereign states, these are processes which must run simultaneously. Economic cooperation and uniting of efforts do have their own political impact, as you say, without doubt, all this integrates and unites people, this all has political consequences. But I must say quite frankly, unless we solve the question of the destiny of our state, of what sort of state it is to be, then in the final analysis there will be no stability. And this will affect the the economy, too. We are all living witnesses to this: Lack of clarity about what sort of state we are conducting leads to huge consequences, both in the economy and in questions concerning people's lives, with citizenship, concerning the future and the present. Quite simply our destiny. Since you have asked the question, I will not try to avoid telling you how acute the situation is. I will answer it since I already have come to firm conclusions on this score. Already now there are several ideas circulating—let's put it that way. One of these is that we should have an economic union without a political union. This means that certain people would like to have access to the resources of Russia, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, or—I can't put it any other way. But, in general, they would remain free.

[Yakovlev] They don't want political....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] They don't want any political union. And it would be impossible to have any influence over them. Things do not happen that way. Take the European market. There they already have a European Parliament and a European Council. This European Parliament is elected by the people. They have a European Court; in other words, entire institutions that have some impact. We cannot dispense with that. That's the first thing.

Second, there is a view that has been expressed in certain circles here, in Russia.

[Yakovlev] The view that Russia is the legal heir to the Soviet Union?

[Gorbachev] Yes. What does their view consist of? They want economic independence plus a soft and weak political union. It appears that they want the union to be a temporary structure so that they can separate in due course, so that they can get a divorce and separate from the republics, shake them off, and use Russia's resources to move ahead and become a prosperous state. I have to say that this is all, I would describe these ideas as scholastic. They ignore all the realities that have developed in this land. Yes, it has an enormous role to play. What union can there be without Russia?

[Yakovlev] From my conversations with a wide variety of people in some of the republics, with deputies and members of the intelligentsia, I know that the republics take a very dim view of this idea.

[Gorbachev] Yes.

[Yakovlev] They are not at all indifferent toward it.

[Gorbachev] Look, arguments are suddenly being heard. Naturally this gives rise to questions. Russia must disassociate itself from everybody else, they are saying. It does not see any need for cooperation and the formation of a union state. What will happen, then, to millions of people, of Russians.

[Yakovlev] Approximately 18 months ago [the writer Valentin] Rasputin said that Russia had taken offense. It was taken as a joke, as a paradox.

[Gorbachev] Yes. Eighteen months later this is not being taken as a joke. Suddenly you get the emergence of Russian republics in other republics—in Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. They are being organized there. They are to merge with Russia. I don't know—you can sit somewhere one evening and say such things when there's no one listening and when it's not going to have any consequences. But to conduct such discussions in front of the country means to provoke such things. You know, if conflict is initiatied on the basis of such approaches, then there won't be a Croatia and Serbia: This will mean things which are more terrible. So, I am a resolute opponent. In this connection, views have been drawn up about the future of the country, the state, together with Boris Nikolayevich and by agreement with other republics, jointly with our experts. And the first draft, the first version, of a treaty on a union of sovereign states was sent out a few days ago. In it, we backed a union state. All the principles—territorial issues, mutual relations, the new center—were considered there. It is an innovative and progressive draft, which takes account not only of the experience achieved in the framework of the Novo-Ogarevo process, but also the consequences of the new situation we have found ourselves in since August. So, I think that you will have noted this document. It has been adopted as a working basis, as it were. Everyone has asked for a week, I think. They are to send us their comments in the course of a week. They asked that the country's president use the comments to draw up a draft around which all the republican leaders could sit down. So, it would be a union of sovereign states which takes account of the realities which we face in this vast land—human realities, the settlement of peoples, demography, economic ties, defense interests, and so on. I am bound to say, and I have now become so aware of this, that basically, Yegor Vladimirovich, it is impossible for us to split up. We need to share powers. We have to give the maximum possible oxygen to all the republics and peoples, while at the same time uniting and cooperating. Everyone will gain from this. That would be the new union, a voluntary union.

[Yakovlev] In this connection there is the question of....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] ...the Ukraine. I don't want to omit this question. You know, I can't imagine that there can be a union without the Ukraine. I can't imagine it. I think that the Ukraine ultimately—that they realize this in the Ukraine itself. And I think the Supreme Soviet, when it interprets all this in the Ukraine, will come to the same conclusions. I think the Ukraine is an irreplaceable factor in the construction of the new union. This will preserve an independent Ukraine, independent in all its present parameters, with all its potential, and it will exert its enormous role in the whole union. I cannot imagine it otherwise. You know, I have in me the blood of the Chernigov region and of Voronezh. I don't know how I could be divided. Surely we won't reach a point where we're living a life in which we Ukrainians and Russians are quarrelling with each other, and will find ourselves on different sides. The people of the Ukraine have already taken their stand. In the referendum they came out in favor of the union. Some people don't like that and want another referendum, taking advantage of the situation. Very well. But I'm sure that in the Ukraine the Ukrainians and the Russians and all who live there will vote for the union any way. I assure you. And shame will come to those who incite conflict between Russia and the other republics. I'm fully convinced of that.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, a State Council decision has been made to abolish the KGB, that is, in practice, to abolish the political police, and three departments have been created out of it. Well, this is pleasing news. I know how much this point from yesterday's State Council meeting has been commented upon abroad and in the press. In general, everyone had been tirelessly talking about the threat from this monster, so to speak, in the form of the KGB, especially since January 1991. Everyone had been talking about the danger entailed in that organization. The appearance of the law [words indistinct]—the law on the KGB—in no way rids us of this danger. If this was understood by journalists, we were unable to understand what prevented us being rid of this threat from the KGB not from yesterday and not from the moment that Vadim Viktorovich Bakatin was appointed, but earlier.

[Gorbachev] Read my little book on the August putsch. I do not want to go very extensively into these considerations now. Yes, I had of course, you know, and not only of late, been feeling pressure from conservative forces. It particularly increased as we progressed to the new realities connected with the Novo-Ogarevo process. They saw that their time was passing and they were in a hurry. My task throughout all the years was to bring society to a condition where each attempt at such a putsch was doomed from the very outset. This, I can now say, is what guided my acts and my tactical moves. Incidentally, many people already understood this, but it required a great amount of effort on my part to see that the party did not go on the attack. You will recall the recent plenums.

[Yakovlev] I do indeed remember them well. But let us put this in simpler terms so that people can understand. Did you not earlier have an opportunity to reorganize the KGB, or did you still....

[Gorbachev, interrupting] I was linking the reorganization of the whole state structure—and incidentally I had said this forthrightly to a narrow circle and it became known—that is, the reform of the Army, the KGB, internal affairs, and the whole structure of state bodies with the signing of a union treaty and the departure of some republics, because I nevertheless have always been and remain now a supporter of tackling everything within a constitutional framework.

If we start tackling any problems in the economy or in politics through strikes and rallies, with denunciations at these rallies by both sides, I can tell you that we would then simply be doomed to vegetate. But the problems, of course, have to be addressed. If people see that nothing is being addressed, they seek their own methods, and I can understand that. So the problems have to be addressed. So now is the time—what's the phrase you used—"Don't say any more that we...."

[Yakovlev] Before our interview, I asked: "Don't say any more that we're entering a decisive phase...." [laughter]

[Gorbachev] Yes, decisive, decisive! I can see I can't say anything to anyone! But this is going to be a very difficult stage, Yegor Vladimirovich.

[Yakovlev] I realize that.

[Gorbachev] Society must endure it. Society must endure it. Otherwise we shall always remain in dire straits.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, the KGB has been reorganized. But the papers are still full of predictions that a second putsch may happen. Astrologers, mediums, political scientists, and academics are preoccupied with the same thing. Do you see a danger or a possibility of this sort? And if you do, when could it emanate?

[Gorbachev] If we do what we were just talking about, improve the economic processes, in the sphere of food supplies, and in food and light industry, if people really see these changes, and perceive it on the market and in the shops, then I have to tell you straight: no putsch will succeed. If we do nothing and waste time, and people see that these structures, this cohort of people is unable to resolve the problems and lift them out of crisis, then it is possible that people will present their claim, they'll come and say—get lost! In this situation any alternative could come about. So I am clearly aware, this is why I am now saying that we have to be both resolute—not precipitate, of course, and I don't generally suffer from this disease, nor do the others, I think—resolute but careful, and then we'll continue, I'm sure of this.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, as a political leader today you face difficulties which cannot be compared with 1985 when you embarked on the reform period. You had limitless power at that time. Like Caesar's wife, you were above suspicion. There was an inhuman and ruthless but smoothly running system. Today everything has changed. Your power is limited. Your possibilites depend on the wishes of sovereign states. You are constantly criticized. The old system has been demolished, but a new one has not been created. I realize that this must be constantly and fairly painfully on your mind, but I'm allowing myself to say this since we've decided to be frank. Tell me, if you can, although it is said that politicians can't be absolutely frank—perhaps we can prove this not to be the case.

[Gorbachev] I recently said that people shouldn't try to ask me question after question—I won't tell you everything anyway!

[Yakovlev] You were talking about the Foros episode. So what regrets do you have from these past six years? What mistakes and miscalculations do you see, and above all what are your hopes?

[Gorbachev] When they presented me with an ultimatum in Foros, either to adopt a decree introducing emergency powers or to resign, this was unacceptable to me primarily because I had already made my choice long ago. Yes, when I found myself at that pinnacle of power, in the role of general secretary....[changes thought] Our country's general secretary concentrates such power that no other leader, not even the most, the greatest of the dictators, shall we say, possessed as much power as the general secretary. I would say plainly that for 10, 12 years, or so would be quite sufficient to remain and adapt. I am only reacting to what is happening in our society and adjusting to it somehow along one line or another and....

[Yakovlev, interrupting] I think you've already said that your power was sufficient.

[Gorbachev] Absolutely. I know that whole system from the inside: That whole rotten, amoral system which has undermined the nation and has not given oxygen, either to the people or in general, as it were, which opened no prospect to society.

[Yakovlev] And left us all paupers.

[Gorbachev] Yes, in spite of such vast possibilities, resources, of land, and indeed of human talent. Look how our people are now being brought up. I feel this acutely, because there has always been intelligence here, which is valued throughout the world. Look how the whole world is anxious over what will become of our academy. They understand all this. And that's how it has always been. My choice was deliberate. I would say even today, having lived through everything, having been through everything and finding myself in the same situation, I would still say that I remain firmly with my choice. From that point of view, in the main, I regret nothing. If I were making minor running repairs, that's one thing; but now that we have embarked upon such deep reforms, I foresaw what needed to be foreseen. The further we have gone in our reforms, the more strongly we have affected the vital interests of all sections. Nor was it just the party, or the Army, or the officials—no, the interests of workers and peasants alike were also affected because there, too, the levelling-down psychology led to a situation in which the overwhelming majority of people regard the state as a kind of social security department. Maybe they have grounds for that, because the state did not pay them real wages.

[Yakovlev] That's just life.

[Gorbachev] And it destroyed their initiative, as it were. Now all this—all of society ought to live in a new way, in a new way. It is a colossal perestroyka of minds. All of this is hard. That is why I would say that there were miscalculations regarding what should have been done at what time and I can see that.

[Yakovlev] For instance?

[Gorbachev] Well, for instance, I think we gave a great deal of freedom to enterprises but we had no instruments of economic regulation and thus caused the country to lose its balance. When we lost control over the growth of incomes, inflation began to grow in our country.

[Yakovlev] But we do not have that.

[Gorbachev] But it was us who passed such laws. Moreover, you know, we passed them consciously and it was a mistake, a miscalculation. Given such changes, I do not know who can say that he will not allow mistakes to be made, perhaps Jesus Christ? What was our starting premise? When we took a look at the previous reforms in Khrushchev's time or, let's say in the time of Kosygin, because he was [word indistinct] of this—why is it that they came to nothing? Because the [word indistinct], the echelons, the hierarchy destroyed these processes. We decided that more initiative must be given from below, to the workforces themselves and thus to involve the people in the reforms. From this point of view, the calculation surely did yield results of its own and people are getting more involved in the new life. But, on the other hand, we failed to think the whole system through to the end. The process got under way and out of hand.

[Yakovlev] Yes, and then we went over to cash transactions without having any cash and it could not but [words indistinct].

[Gorbachev] I think that the most serious miscalculation consisted, you know, of this: That when we approached a stage when new life was already beginning, while the old structures were being retained, we should have made more effective decisions. The dismantling process ought to proceed at the initial stages and people and conditions ought to mature. But when these processes are already under way, while the structures were holding them back and, moreover, the conservative and reactionary forces were firmly entrenched therein—well, that is a miscalculation. We should have acted more decisively and changed things.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, there is a known saying to the effect that the reformer's fate is always a tragic one. What is your attitude to it?

[Gorbachev] My attitude is normal. I now feel the need to do everything so as, after this drama which we went through in August, to use the chance that has opened up, because it was not only a tragedy, but also an immense chance for our cause to make serious progress. In the final analysis, attaining what has to happen in this society, what has, in the final analysis, to bring about positive results for the lives of people, this is in the interests of the whole of society. But it's very difficult at the present time.

[Yakovlev] Mikhail Sergeyevich, first and foremost, thank you for this conversation. I tried to be sincere, and it seems to me, you replied in the same manner. But, generally speaking, as is known, your appetite grows the more you eat. You said that you addressed U.S. television viewers with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and answered their questions. Has not the time come to visit a Central Television studio, so that people can telephone in all the questions that are on their minds? Perhaps the next step could be a sort of feedback with the president getting closer to the people?

[Gorbachev] In front of our television viewers and citizens, I can say that I agree and am interested in this.

[Yakovlev] Thank you.

[Gorbachev] And I regard it as very important for our thread of mutual understanding not to become broken.

[Yakovlev] There are no questions which the president would be unable to give answers to for the people.

[Gorbachev] Yes, and if perhaps we diverge on something or other, this is surely natural too.

[Yakovlev] One will not otherwise arrive at the truth.

[Gorbachev] Yes, yes, but we should carry on such a dialogue and I think our conversation in front of the cameras is also a dialogue with our fellow countrymen, because we now have to tackle such tasks that if we do not enjoy their support and trust, we will not resolve them.

[Yakovlev] No doubt about that.

TASS on Gorbachev Interview

LD1210225391 Moscow TASS in English
2154 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—When I was going to the meeting of the State Council on Friday [11 October], I felt that "we are again facing very serious danger, the same as after the august putsch," President Gorbachev said in an interview with chairman of the National TV and Radio Company Yegor Yakovlev. It was broadcast by Central Television tonight.

The president praised the understanding reached by leaders of the sovereign republics at the session of the State Council concerning the signing of the treaty on economic community on October 15.

"We spoke in favour of the preservation of the common all-Union economic space and market. We coordinated principles of the functioning of economy within the framework of the common economic space," he pointed out.

Gorbachev stressed that Yeltsin's stand on the economic agreement was not a surprise to him. He pointed to a constructive, unifying role played by Russia, which made it possible to reach agreement on the concluding of the treaty.

The president said, however, that the treaty would not begin working at once, but the very fact of signing it will make a tremendous impact on the situation.

Gorbachev stressed the importance of the food agreement for 1992 between the sovereign republics. The draft agreement was approved by the State Council on Friday. According to the president, the food situation is tense and serious. "If the food problem is not resolved in the near future, it is difficult to expect the reforms and transformations to be a success," he warned. He said that in the current situation the country has to rely on the support of Western partners, "without which we just cannot do," but in the future we should put an end to food imports.

"The first draft treaty on the union of sovereign states was worked out recently and submitted for the consideration of the republics," President Gorbachev said.

"We put forward in it the idea of a union state and tackled the problem of territories, relationship, a new centre, and functions of the republic. It is an innovatory, progressive draft treaty, which takes into account both the experience gained within the framework of the Novo-Ogarevo process and the consequences of the August developments. Within a week we shall adopt remarks, so that the president will be able to prepare the draft treaty on their basis, which could be submitted to leaders of the republics."

"We should give the nations as much oxygen as possible, and at the same time cooperate on the basis of uniting. Everybody will stand to gain from it," Gorbachev stressed.

Speaking about the role of the Ukraine, the president pointed out that he could not imagine the Union without that republic. "The Ukraine realises it too, I believe," he added. In his opinion, the Ukraine is an indispensable factor in the creation of the new union.

Gorbachev stressed that the profound reforms affected the interests of all sections of the population, and not only those of the party and public servants. This is why it was decided to give more initiative to labour collectives themselves, thus drawing the people into the implementation of the reforms.

The system was not thought out well enough, however, and, as a result of it, did not work properly. In his opinion, the most serious mistake was that "it was necessary to act more resolutely." while the reform processes were developing already, old structures were hampering them. Moreover, they were occupied by conservative, reactionary forces.

Responding to the question about his attitude to the fate of a reformer, which is tragic as a rule, he answered: "I realise that the situation is like this." But now I find it necessary to do all I can for using the chance that we got after the August developments for continuing the process of transformations, the president said.

Anti-Economic Treaty Signing Arguments Rebuffed

PM1410224391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Oct 91 Union Edition pp 1-2

[Article by I. Demchenko: "Economic Treaty No Hindrance to Sovereignties"]

[Text] The final date when the heads of 10 states and governments have agreed to sign the treaty of economic community, which was initialed in Alma-Ata, is 15 October. Today we publish the document confirming this.

For understandable reasons Russia's position aroused the greatest concern among the participants in the 11 October State Council session. According to the participants, B. Yeltsin stayed silent until asked the question of whether Russia will sign the treaty, to which he calmly replied: Yes, it will sign—unequivocally.

Yeltsin also said that the stand taken by his government is an internal matter, which he himself will investigate. The signature of the president of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] under the commitment is the first one in the left-hand column, and right at the bottom, between this column and the middle one, is the signature of O. Lobov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. [The article is accompanied by a photograph of a single-page document comprising a title, two paragraphs of text, and several signatures—all of which are indecipherable.] As we see, neither of them made any reservations. The only one to record a "special opinion," which he voiced back in Alma-Ata, was Ukrainian Premier V. Fokin (in the right-hand column). Therefore, the information that Yeltsin demanded that the finished texts of the agreements to the treaty be submitted by 15 October, in the absence of which he will not sign, is inaccurate. It could be a question of the Russian legislature's decision to ratify the treaty signed by the RSFSR president only together with the agreements. And, as we see, the minutes of the State Council session, which Yeltsin signed, stipulate that the priority agreements necessary for the document's ratification by the republic parliaments must be prepared within a month.

G. Yavlinskiy delivered the report to the State Council. We failed to secure the interview with him promised to IZVESTIYA. Three hours after the end of the session Yavlinskiy flew with a group of economists and financiers to Bangkok, where a conference of the finance ministers of the "G-7" countries, concerning, in particular, questions of aid for the Soviet Union, opened 12 October.

Meanwhile, an active discussion of questions connected with the signing of the treaty of economic community is continuing in the press and over the air. Therefore it seems expedient to return to Yavlinskiy's report, which, according to the State Council session participants, took the form of a reply to opponents.

Those opposed to the conclusion of the treaty, Yavlinskiy said, most frequently appeal to the fact that it is easier for the republics to emerge from the crisis alone.

Calculations show that the price of isolation—the price in the literal, purely financial sense of this word—will exceed by many times the cost of bringing the republics' legislation and normative acts into line with the general accord.

Today all the republics without exception are in the grip of a growing slump in production. The volume of national income in the country as a whole is expected to fall 15 percent in 1991. The most important reasons for this are the disruption of economic ties, the violation of food delivery pledges, and the republics' uncoordinated actions. The isolation of republics and regions has to be paid for and will continue to have to be paid for by their population, which is already not very rich, to put it mildly. Not one of the sovereign states now has the budgetary means to compensate for these losses.

In addition, I would like to draw attention to one purely systemic aspect: From a purely economic viewpoint, the wider the market is the easier it is to emerge from any crisis. Some 99 percent of our output is not competitive on the world market, and the rest is sold there at dumping prices. What our producers need is a permanent sales market for output, otherwise they simply cannot develop. And at present this market can only be an internal Union one.

Having cut the ties which have taken shape over 70 years, the majority of the republics will not find sufficient internal reserves to emerge from the crisis. Today the economic ties among the republics are more intensive than the ties among the EEC countries. In 1989, for example, the volume of the interrepublic exchange of Soviet output amounted to more than 20 percent of the USSR's gross national product, while the analogous ratio of ties among EEC countries stood at 16 percent. Therefore it is naive and hopeless to trust that, having broken off relations, we will at once start living better.

The second argument, which is ever present, is that individual republics fleece each other and plunder resources. It is characteristic that absolutely all believe that they have been plundered. And this is so in actual fact. Only it is not the republics that have plundered each other, for they were plundered by the system that existed. Therefore, with very minimal differences, they all ended up destitute.

With the market there is simply no plunder of resources, because no one can order a republic or a producer living in it to give up his commodity regardless of economic expediency. With market relations the movement of resources is regulated by free prices, by freedom of economic ties, and by the producer's interest.

As for the treaty's supposed flouting of republic sovereignties, this idea arose out of a misconception of sovereignty as the supremacy of local over general decisions. By signing any international treaty we thereby acknowledge that the obligations we have assumed are higher than internal ones. And, after this, work is done to bring internal legislation into line with the accords reached. Otherwise there would be no point in international agreements.

Skeptics say that the treaty, even if it is concluded, will not be fulfilled, just as all our accords are not fulfilled. But if we speak, for example, of the failure to fulfill the 1990-1991 interrepublic economic agreements, then this, in our opinion, is not a problem of the crisis of the treaty process but a problem of the quality and contents of these treaties themselves. When the government of one republic concludes with the government of another an agreement on mutual deliveries of timber and bricks, this means that both governments must establish a state order and a compulsory price, one gather up timber and the other bricks, and hand them over to each other. But for the producers this is the same atavism of the former edict system, as they have been deprived of the possibility of selling their timber and bricks to whom they want and at the price they want. This is coercion against the producer, and from an economic viewpoint such a system is in no way different from the one when two republic state committees for material and technical supply exchanged goods in kind.

If we proceed from the premise that we will fulfill treaties only under duress, then there is no point at all in trying to reach agreement. The treaty of economic community, like any other one, will only be fulfilled if, on the basis of it, the producers and the consumers are given an interest in its observance.

The final argument of the treaty's opponents is that it is necessary, first, to reach a political agreement and only then an economic one. Who objects? Let us try, but I think that it will be very difficult for us to conclude a political treaty now, and this will not happen very quickly. On the other hand, the accords reached in the economic sphere already contain political elements, since they govern interstate relations. Republics which trade with one another will not fight.

There is one feature in our state which other countries do not have. Ethnic communities here are very closely interwoven and are literally wedged into one another, and this always poses a potential threat. It can only be neutralized by channeling people's energy into creation, production, trade, and the development of contacts. All wars, including economic ones, however long they last, always end in the conclusion of treaties.

'Another Proletarian Revolution' on 4 November

OW1110162791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 11 Oct 91

Transmitted via KYODO

[Text] Another proletarian revolution is scheduled in Moscow for November 4. Leaflets seen on a number of buildings near Red Square on Friday [11 October] say that the new coup is expected "to suspend the country's disintegration, bring mounting crime and interethnic hostility under control, change the course of the economic reform and stabilize the ruble."

The leaflets indicate that these tasks are to be dealt with by "war veterans, industrial workers, teachers, doctors and servicemen" whom someone by the name of Gennadiy A. Trukhin invites to come to Pushkin Square on November 4 to take part in the coup. Worker detachments will be formed locally "to defend the occupied installations and organize the country's management."

College student Igor Lukin standing near one of such manifestos told IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent that 30 people had enrolled into the "Red Brigades" in only one hour.

KGB on Possibility of New Coup Attempt

LD1210115191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Economic difficulties are likely to become one of the main causes for instability in various facets of our life in the near future. That is why the possibility of a new coup attempt remains very real. This conclusion is from a report by the analytic directorate of the USSR KGB, excerpts of which have been published in the latest edition of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI.

Officials on Reforms, Intelligence Structures

Oleynikov on New Structures

LD1410214691 Moscow TASS in English 2128 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The aim of current reforms in the state security bodies is to exclude the possibility of their use as punitive bodies, First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Security Committee Anatoliy Oleynikov told the IZVESTIYA newspaper today.

The State Council decided on October 11 to set up three new structures on the basis of the KGB—an independent service of central intelligence, an inter-republican service of counter- intelligence and a state committee on the protection of the state border with a united command of border troops.

A special decree by the Soviet president will be issued to this effect.

"We have got a unique opportunity to release the state security committee from superfluous functions and put its secret work in full correspondence with the law," Oleynikov stressed.

"Thus, telephone conversations will be listened only with the procurator's approval. The same it will be with the perlustration of personal correspondence.

"We have abandoned the 'three' department—an institution to defend the constitutional order, which has been initially called the ideological department. The so-called 'nine'—the department of governmental guard—and the department for communications with corresponding special troops have been taken out the KGB subordination. The same will be done with the foreign intelligence, which has always been absolutely independent, and border troops."

Speaking of the activities of the inter-republican counter- intelligence service, Oleynikov stressed: "We would like to take as an example for our functions and structures the U.S. FBI. We would provide for counter-intelligence, combat corruption and organised crime, defend the economic and financial structure, and offer the centralized training of personnel.

"We would like to do our work in accordance with specific state programs, for which money would be allocated."

In the opinion of the general, "new independent structures of national security would come together and decide what issues they would take upon themselves and what issues we will consider jointly.

"We have found ourselves in a difficult position. The recently adopted law on state security bodies has become outdated. There is not any new law, which would specify the very notion of today's state security," Oleynikov said.

Border Guards Discussed

LD1410203791 Moscow TASS in English 2028 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vitaly Gordienko]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The KGB's department in charge of the Soviet border guard troops will soon be transformed into an independent committee, a high-ranking official told TASS today.

He added that the border guards will be directly subordinate to the president.

The committee's joint commandment will be set up to coordinate the activity of republics which want to have their own border guard troops.

A document is expected to be published soon setting out the guidelines for the reform. What shape the document will eventually take—a statute, law or presidential decree remains to be seen.

As was announced earlier, the USSR State Council decided on October 11 to abolish the KGB and establish on the basis of its departments the independent central intelligence service, the inter-republican counter-intelligence service and the state committee for the protection of the state border with the joint commandment of the border guard troops. Proposals to this effect will be submitted for consideration to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

'Foreigner' Wounded in Firefight in Moscow Cafe

LD1410101691 Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—A fight involving a grenade and firearms left one dead and five wounded at Moscow's Viktoriya cooperative cafe last night. TASS was told that a foreigner was among those wounded.

Fighting broke out between customers during a party for Soviet and U.S. cookery experts at the cafe on Timiryazevskaya Street.

The dead man has not been named but is said to have been the director of a Moscow technical school.

Mikhail Semenov, deputy chief of the Timiryazevskiy district police department, said police have launched full investigation and are still looking for the suspects.

Economic

State Banks To Lend to Finance Ministry

OW1510005091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The committee for the operational management of the Soviet economy approved of a draft USSR presidential decree pursuant to which the State Bank is to extend to the USSR Finance Ministry a 30 bn. rbs. [billion rubles] loan to cover its expenditures in the fourth quarter. The Monday [14 October] sitting of the committee conceded that the move meant that "more money will be printed", but since the budget had not been receiving the receipts due to it, there is no alternative to the move.

The committee members sharply criticized Soviet Finance Minister Vladimir Rayevskiy and Soviet Economics Minister Vladimir Durasov for allegedly "having no concrete proposals as to how to tackle the budget deficit." The combined budget deficit of the Soviet Union and the republics may reach 300 bn. rbs. by the end of 1991. Committee Deputy Chairman Yuriy Luzhkov even suggested that the two Soviet ministers be dismissed, but the motion was overruled.

To answer the criticism, Mr. Durasov said that next Wednesday [23 October] proposals for an extraordinary budget for the 4th quarter of 1991 would be submitted to the committee for the operational management of the national economy. The proposals contain a number of measures to greatly increase the revenues of the Union budget. He said, specifically, that "the funds of enterprises must be taken away in some manner or other, trade must be put on a commercial basis, and the existing taxation system must be changed, including a wider use of excises to increase budget receipts." "These three big projects can generate 100 to 120 bn. rbs. in revenues in the fourth quarter," claimed Durasov.

Mr. Durasov reported that the draft emergency budget for the fourth quarter "took account" of suggestions of Mr. Luzhkov who had suggested, in late September, selling 2 to 3 bn. dollars to the population at 40 rbs. per $1 and naming a number of enterprises worth a total of 150 bn. rbs. that could immediately put on sale to Soviet and foreign businessmen.

Mr. Luzhkov had also suggested that vodka, tobacco and sugar prices be liberated, which can generate another 40 to 50 bn. rbs. in revenues and that more weapons experts be considered. Committee Chairman Ivan Silayev said that the State Council "had made corresponding instructions" concerning more weapons exports back at the first sitting in September.

Mr. Durasov said that "two or three meetings had taken place toward carrying out this order and the idea was being thrashed out." He said, however, that only 10 to 15% of the value of a weapons deal is paid in cash, and the rest is paid on a several-year instalment plan.

Mr.Luzhkov said at the end of the meeting that he would not join the Interrepublican Economic Committee as he finds it difficult to serve both as Moscow's vice-mayor and a member of the committee.

Energy Payments Tied to Consumption

OW1510005791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A member of the committee for the operational management of the national economy Igor Gavrilov said that "the country could be left without oil and gas in two weeks" unless it finds 10.2 bn. rbs. [billion rubles] on short notice to finance operating expenses of oil producers. Since the Union budget does not have funds to keep the oil industry running, Mr. Gavrilov has been authorized by the committee members to suggest to the leaders of the sovereign republics that the required funds be allocated on an ad hoc basis. The payment of every republic will be tied to the volume of oil and gas it consumes.

When this issue was being discussed, deputy chairman of the committee Yuriy Luzhkov suggested that oil and gas supplies to the republics that had officially discontinued payments to the Union budget be stopped.

According to the committee's decision, the leaderships of the Ukraine, Georgia and the Baltics will be notified that oil and gas supplies can be cut off. The committee said that though the republics had gained independence, they continued to receive energy resource at domestic prices. Specifically, 1000 cubic metres of gas cost $1—as against some $80 on the world market.

Unemployment Figures As Seen 'From Outside'

LD1210085891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] A total of 25,000 unemployed people has been announced. Benefits are paid to 4,500, but 13 million people are not working. A view from outside is much more precise. Foreign experts consider that 1991 will throw 16 million people into the labor market, and by 1995 the number of our unemployed will jump to 40 million.

Agriculture

Silayev Urges Legislation To Help Farmers

LD1110192191 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Speech by Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, to opening of all-Russian conference of farmers in Moscow on 11 October—recorded]

[Text] One can conclude that we made a number of mistakes while adopting laws at the second congress. We seem to have decided that it is enough to adopt a code of laws once, and then everything will go smoothly, and no serious amendments or corrections to adopted laws will be necessary. Practice is showing—and, you know, I started to feel alarmed as far back as mid-June to July—that if we do not start to draw completely new, more daring laws in the very near future, to ensure the development of the farmers' movement, then this movement will not only be smothered by the many who want to smother it, but it will choke by itself, since the number of laws which make for favorable activity by farmers is extremely small.

I have no doubt that if no code of new laws is adopted in the immediate future, it will be very difficult to rely on the further serious development of entrepreneurship in the countryside. The most important thing is that the farmer's soul is still alive, the genes are very firmly rooted there, in the country dweller, and also in the town dweller born into a farmer's family. Entrepreneurship in the countryside and organizing cooperative forms of production and processing agricultural products—this is the meaning which must be put into this. This movement should be given a priority. For instance, as far as potatoes in Russia are concerned, it turns out that 70 percent of potatoes are produced, not by state structures, but by the private and individual sector. It follows that if village dwellers and private owners of vegetable gardens are given the necessary amount of fertilizers and special high-yield brands of potatoes—this problem can be resolved, within two years at the most, through the efforts of farmers and through the efforts of private owners of vegetable gardens. It is private farmers who will feed the population. Only this will take time. [applause]

This does not mean that we must now tell farmers, the majority of whom are still working in collective and state farms, that they are no longer farmers, they are something else—they are the same sort of farmers, we must only help ... [changes thought] And this must also be, obviously, put into the legislation, that they could be transformed... [changes thought] cooperative formations.

We must help the farmers at collective and state farms to regain their farmer's soul as owners of land who will be able to work more effectively tomorrow.

Grain Statistics Worst in 'Half a Century'

PM1110140991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by V. Romanyuk: "We Will Avoid Hunger If We Are Together"]

[Text] On Wednesday 9 October the committee for the operational management of the country's national economy examined the draft treaty on supplying the population of the sovereign republics with food in 1992. Delivering the report on this question, G. Kulik declared that hopes that the country will avoid hunger during the coming winter are pinned on the signing of this agreement.

The operational situation as of 6 October was as follows: Some 34 million tonnes of grain had been procured for the needs of consumption—the worst indicator for half a century! Given the monthly consumption of 5 million tonnes of grain, it will not stretch to the new harvest.

Rationing of grain distribution has already been introduced on 16 Russian territories—down to 300 grams per person on some territories. The draft agreement, and this is not the first time it has been submitted to the committee for discussion, contains new principles of food supply. They have rejected the formation of an all-Union grain fund—except for centralized supplies for the Army, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, nuclear power generation, and Moscow City. The republics will meet their needs out of their own production and interrepublic deliveries and, partly, by means of imports of grain (and also meat, oil, and sugar).

In order to maintain consumption at the 1990 level it will be necessary to spend $14.7 billion on acquiring food abroad, or $10.4 billion to keep it at the 1991 level. With no special debate they agreed on the second, more modest option. As regards interrepublic deliveries, the calculations are based on figures provided by the republics themselves. The draft treaty provides for a procedure for moving food between republics without paying duties, and tough sanctions are also proposed for violating the terms of the treaty. In particular, the value of undelivered produce is levied from a violator at world prices and also in freely convertible currency. This enables the side which has suffered to replenish its resources on the world market. Well, such stringency in relations between partners is an inalienable part of market relations.

I. Silayev, who chaired the committee session, proposed several amendments to the document with the aim of removing antimarket wordings and directive instructions. At the same time he declared the need to accelerate the resolution of the question of the powers of the interrepublic economic committee as the successor to the former Cabinet of Ministers. For it is a question of confirming credits and of specific food deliveries to the country, which—because of political uncertainty—have not been made at all over the past six weeks.

Grain Need Estimated at 48.7 Million Tonnes

OW1410031791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2223 GMT 13 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union must import 48.7 mn. [million] tons [as received] of grain, said chairman of the interrepublican economic committee Ivan Silayev at the Friday [11 October] meeting of the USSR State Council that was attended by republican leaders. He also suggested that the republics sign an agreement to set up centralized food resources fund.

The fund is supposed to serve the needs of the defense establishment, Moscow and state reserves. Failure to meet the timetable of supplying foodstuffs to the fund will be penalized by a variety of sanctions, including fines in convertible currency and/or the reduction of imports from the centralized resources to the offending republic.

'Strict Control' Needed; Situation 'Alarming'

924A0060B Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed interview with Vasiliy Boyev, director of the All-Union Research Institute for Economics of Agriculture; place and date not given: "The Food Situation"]

[Text] The food situation in our country is becoming alarming. The unmet demand for food products has exceeded 50 billion rubles and continues to grow. "What to do?" This traditional Russian question requires an immediate competent answer.

"First of all, strict control needs to be established over already produced agricultural production," believes Vasiliy Boyev, member of VASKHNIL [Academy of Agricultural Sciences Imeni V.I. Lenin] and director of the All-Union Research Institute for the Economics of Agriculture. "Shortages here are caused to a large degree by considerable losses during harvesting, transportation, and especially processing and storage. Grain not delivered to elevators is perishing on threshing floors; grain cereals are spoiling in the home pantries of those residents who have had an opportunity to accumulate their own supply.

"It is no less important to stop by all means the slaughtering of livestock. Whether it is fashionable or not, urgent support is needed for collective agriculture, to save it from uncontrolled disintegration. This is where 70 percent of agricultural production is produced today. By the way, I think those who have deceived the farms by promising equipment, transport, and various goods for the grain sold in excess of state orders but have not kept their word should be punished."

Agricultural Developments for 6-12 Oct

LD1310012991

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR from 6 to 12 October. Source and GMT time of broadcast are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

6 October

In Belorussia, the potato harvest has reached 94 percent completion in Minsk Oblast, 93 percent in Grodno Oblast, and 92 percent in Brest Oblast. In addition, Vitebsk and Mogilev Oblast harvest figures are near these percentages. Productivity is highest in Brest Oblast—149 quintals per hectare [qph]; and the republic's average productivity is 131 qph. The sale of potatoes to the state continues at a very slow pace with less than half the plan fulfilled to date. (Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belorussian, 0400)

A shortage of transportation has resulted in the sugar beet harvest in Kursk Oblast remaining in the fields. In addition, the sugar beet gathering points have begun to refuse to accept the harvest. Many state and collective farms have had to resort to hiring people from western Ukraine and cities to assist in the harvest which has resulted in extra expenses for the farms. (Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian, 1700)

Ivanovo Oblast has fulfilled the food tax and state order for deliveries of grain. Grain collecting enterprises have received 70,000 tonnes of bread grain. The sale of bread grain continues but at triple the prices. To encourage deliveries to the state grain reserves, funds are being allocated to villagers to used toward the purchase of cars, sewing and washing machines, television sets, and other household appliances. (Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian, 1700)

7-8 October

No fileworthy items monitored.

9 October

The average yield of grain in Lithuania this year is 34 qph with 70 percent of the crop harvested. Winter crops have been planted on 414,800 hectares—91 percent of the plan. The harvesting of flax has reached 99.8 percent; potatoes—92 percent; sugar beets—38 percent; and vegetables—57 percent. Autumn plowing has been carried out on 45 percent of the planned area. (Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian, 1500)

10-11 October

No fileworthy items monitored.

12 October

To date, 790,000 tonnes of grapes have been produced in Azerbaijan which amounts to 72.6 percent of the plan. (Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri, 0202)

Military

Gorbachev-Yeltsin Nuclear Control Aggreement

LD1310193191 Berlin ADN in German
1740 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The Bonn daily DIE WELT reports in its Monday [14 October] edition that there has been an agreement between Soviet President Gorbachev and Russian President Yeltsin on a provisional arrangement that Russia should have equal and effective codetermination over all nuclear weapons:

"According to Aleksandr Rutskoy, who was Russian vice president until he was appointed prime minister of the Russian Federation last week, there is to be "a dual-key system for political dual control by the two highest political authorities on the territory of what was the USSR", as Rutskoy said in response to questions from DIE WELT on the sidelines of the second German-Soviet forum in Moscow.

Rutskoy says that all political directives of the "dual authority" will "only be issued jointly by Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin", who have been given direct authority over the newly created Central High Command of the Nuclear Forces, which controls all the nuclear weapons and nuclear armed units which previously came under separate branches of the forces.

According to Rutskoy, the Soviet General Staff has central operational control over the nuclear forces, but they are still the responsibility of the USSR Defense Ministry and the defense minister of the Russian Federation. The relevant political directives had to be given by the presidents, Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Every operational order for the use of the nuclear weapons requires, according to this explanation, agreement between the presidents of the Union and of the Russian Federation, on whose territory approximately 90 percent of all strategic nuclear systems, including the warheads, are kept.

Republics like Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, and Belorussia, on whose territory nuclear weapons are deployed or being stored, are also included, in a not yet specified way. However, so far there are no considerations of a political veto power or of an independent technical release mechanism.

Russia would like to concentrate all nuclear weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation, in order to prevent other republics from using nuclear weapons stored on their territory as pawns for political demands.

According to Rutskoy, the physical control of all nuclear weapons is in the hands of KGB special units. For this purpose the KGB antiterror unit "Alpha" had been put under the joint authority of the two presidents.

Reserve Status Proposed for Political Workers

LD1010230991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The commission on the abolition of military and political bodies attached to the USSR Defense Ministry and chaired by General Volkogonov, a Russian people's deputy, today decided that there is no need to preserve 259 posts for generals and admirals in the new military structures. It proposed that those highest ranking political workers who already have the required number of years service be transferred to the reserve.

Military Reform Talks Continue at Ministry

PM1510080391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by correspondent Major A. Yegorov: "On the Military Reform Path"]

[Text] A news conference devoted to the results of the work of the second interrepublic consultative meeting, which examined questions concerning the preparation for and implementation of radical military reform, was held at the USSR Defense Ministry on 9 October.

As Lieutenant General V. Manilov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Information Directorate, told journalists, authorized representatives of all the republics, except the Ukraine, assembled in Moscow. They continued the discussion—started one month ago—of topical problems of defense organizational development, which centered on the idea of the civilized maintenance of a single defense space, single defense system, and single armed forces which takes account of modern realities.

An analysis of the actual functioning of the existing defense system was given to participants in the meeting by USSR deputy defense ministers in charge of armaments, the rear services, and construction and troop billeting, the chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Central Finance Directorate, and the deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Main Organizational and Mobilization Directorate. Exhaustive information was provided for the first time on each republic's "share" in ensuring the country's defense capability.

In General Manilov's words, the overwhelming majority of participants in the meeting (from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the republics of Central Asia) confirmed their commitment to the idea of retaining a single defense system, a single defense space, and single Armed Forces. Representatives of Azerbaijan linked their agreement with a demand for the guaranteed participation of the Armed Forces in ensuring the sovereignty of the republic and the protection of its state borders. "This obviously has to be understood in the context of solving the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh and the interethnic conflict existing there." A position distinct from the majority was adopted by Armenia. Its delegate urged that military reform not be rushed and be postponed until final decisions have been made in the sphere of the state system. The representative of Moldova, however, reaffirmed its republic's orientation toward creating its own armed forces while stressing once again the leadership's firm intention to resolve the question on a legal basis.

Judging by the USSR Defense Ministry's assessment, neither the position of the "minority" nor the absence of the Ukrainian delegation (according to Lieutenant General V. Manilov, this was due to "technical" rather than political considerations, as the Ukrainian defense minister, General Morozov, did nevertheless arrive in Moscow on 9 October) influenced the overall positive outcome of the meeting. The general approval of the idea of setting up a standing consultative council of republic Defense Ministries (chairmen of committees on defense questions) under the USSR Defense Ministry was cited as confirmation of the fruitfulness of the work carried out. Once prepared, this idea will be submitted as quickly as possible to the country's State Council for examination.

Observer Comments on Troop Withdrawals

LD1210144691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The Soviet Union is pulling out its troops from abroad stage by stage. More on this from our military affairs observer Colonel Vadim Solovyev.

I may remind you that this past summer the return home was completed of the Soviet Army contingents from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The pullout was record fast, in less than 18 months. Our troops are now leaving Germany and Poland. The Soviet Defense Ministry has concrete plans and schedules for the withdrawal which are strictly observed. Within less than a year more than 100,000 Soviet troops were sent home from the eastern lands of Germany. Under an agreement with that country's government the pullout will have been completed before the end of 1994. On the whole, the relations between the two sides are normal and business like.

Poland is a different matter. Soviet troops began to pull out from it beginning last April. The 50,000-strong grouping there is planned to have been fully withdrawn before the end of 1993, but these actions are on the Soviet initiative only. So far there are no accords, no legal documents about all the property, financial, and ecological aspects of the troop withdrawal. Poland would like to see the Soviet troops pulled out much sooner, disregarding the current situation in the Soviet Union when such a demand cannot be met. The main problem is housing for the withdrawing troops. Therefore, the Soviet Union intends to strictly abide by the pullout plan which was worked out at the Soviet Defense Ministry.

Simultaneously Soviet troops are leaving Mongolia. Bilateral talks are being prepared on the status of the presence of Soviet Army units in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and on the timetable and procedure for their withdrawal. The reduction of the Soviet military presence abroad is taking new, qualitative forms. It was announced a few days ago that 2,000 Soviet specialists at military radar surveillance complexes will shortly leave Cuba. Talks will begin soon to withdraw a Soviet Army brigade from Cuba. Thus security measures match the new stage in the development of international relations, based more on trust than on a threat of force.

As I see it, writes Col. Vadim Solovyev, now that reciprocal initiatives have become possible on this basis between the U.S. and the Soviet presidents on unilateral reduction of nuclear arms by each country, the initiative may be carried on to conventional arms and to reducing the military presence outside the two countries. As is known, trust is based on reciprocity, therefore, the Soviet military have the right to count on withdrawal of U.S. troops in the short term from Europe, Asia, and, of course, from the Guatanamo base on Cuba. The United States may yet advance some other initiatives on the issue. The ball is now in its court.

Baltic Affairs

Ministries Against 'Speedy' Pullout

OW1010181591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 10 oct 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Having contacted several highranking Soviet diplomatic and military officials DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent came to the conclusion that neither the Defence Ministry nor Foreign Ministry want the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic states to be as speedy as it was in Eastern Europe. This involves not only technical difficulties which are quite natural in the movement of such number of servicemen, but also social consequences the decision to remove the troops before the end of this year might entail.

As a member of the General Staff told DP's correspondent, virtually all commanding officers believe that it's hardly necessary to place thousands of servicemen and their families, in a difficult situation with the risk of being left with no roof over their heads and no food in the coming winter for the sake of a political decision that will be taken in one way or another, the more so as they will not be the only "outcasts" forced to leave long-occupied places. They would join thousands of servicemen and their families who were removed from Czechoslovakia and Hungary too hastily, without taking into account their future accommodations, as the military circles believe.

The USSR foreign and defence ministries are expected to act during the talks to be held with envoys from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia with greater coordination in regard to the schedule of troop withdrawal and settlements for the property to be left in the cantonments. A source in the General Staff gave to understand that there is a need to correct mistakes Soviet diplomacy is believed to have committed in the process of negotiating the terms for withdrawing troops from Eastern Europe without taking into account the opinion of the Soviet military.

The spokesman for the General Staff did not concede that this is a sort of "revenge". According to him, the essence of what the military demand is to resolve this problem in "a civilized way" with no infringement on their rights and interests which lays particular responsibility on those will lead the USSR delegations at the talks with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Considering that the talks with Vilnius will be conducted by Eduard Shevardnadze, some military officials foresee the danger of repeating the past mistakes. It's common knowledge that the decisions to remove Soviet troops from Eastern Europe were taken precisely when Eduard Shevardnadze was the USSR foreign minister, after which he was strongly criticized and had to resign.

Latvia

USSR Diplomatic Agreement Signed 15 Oct

LD1510060491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0507 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 15 Oct (TASS)—Heads of foreign policy departments Boris Pankin and Janis Jurkans intend to sign an agreement today on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Latvia.

Such a document, regulating relations between the USSR, Latvia, and Estonia, was signed last week—on 9 October. Latvia was not together with them then, which gave rise to a number of questions in the Republic itself. It turns out that its government had not been notified of the forthcoming step by the neighboring states.

Parliamentary deputy Janis Krumins, member of Latvia's Foreign Affairs Committee, called the insufficient coordination of actions between the three Baltic republics "very painful."

Black Beret Commander Arrested in Siberia

AU1110121391 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct 11 (AFP)—Officials in Siberia, acting on a request from Latvian authorities, have arrested the former deputy head of Soviet Interior Ministry riot police based in Riga, the Russia RIA news agency reported on Friday [11 October].

Officials at the oil town of Surgut in western Siberia had arrested and detained Commander Aleksandr Parfenov, the report said.

The feared ministry police, known as Black Berets, were evacuated to Surgut as a result of the failure of the hard-line putsch against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in August.

Parfenov is accused of having tried to "overthrow the constitutional authorities in Latvia" in January when Black Beret forces attacked the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga, killing five people.

Latvia has been independent of the Soviet Union for six weeks.

Customs Official Describes Talks in Moscow

LD1510093491

[Editorial Report] Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian at 0515 GMT on 11 October broadcasts a 5-minute interview with Alvars Salins, director of the Latvian Department of Customs, by an unidentified correspondent on recent discussions and agreements reached in Moscow between representatives of the Soviet and Latvian Customs Departments. The interview begins with Salins noting that there are contradictions between the customs code of Latvia and the USSR customs laws and these affect the inhabitants of Latvia because many of them travelled to the West via Moscow. He goes on to say:

"Well, these contradictions were being tackled on 8 October in Moscow where we signed an agreement with the USSR Customs Committee. So then, the people, the inhabitants of Latvia, it must be said, in general, the inhabitants of the Baltics who make use of the USSR for trips abroad—unfortunately, we were not able to achieve such a freedom in customs regulations as here in Latvia. But, nevertheless, we did achieve some limited success."

Salins goes on to say that passengers traveling via Moscow were requested to obtain certificates at the local customs offices, including the Customs Department itself in Latvia "because currency control and restrictions still exist in the USSR." People should apply to these establishments, he says, "and we shall issue a certificate. The certificate is very simple. The origin of the currency are not important to us, but this certificate will be valid for taking out this currency through the USSR," adding that such a certificate is necessary and the traveler must also have his place of residence registered in the territory of Latvia.

This was one of the principal matters they discussed, Salins says, and goes on to mention also the 50 ruble restriction of Soviet money when traveling through the USSR.

"At present the USSR is getting ready to establish in a very great hurry the, so to say, the eastern border of the Baltics. And in this connection we had to reach an agreement on what our present relations are". This concerns commodities and is of interest to entrepeneurs, and this also applies to the transitional period which will end with the establishment of the new USSR border to the east of the Baltics, when talks would continue. All of the present agreements are operational until the end of 1991, Salins notes. The USSR is making intensive preparations for establishing this border, he says, but the main problem is the cadres, the methods, and the system which they already have, and government decisions on the border have been confirmed.

"It must, however, be said to their honour," Salins remarks, "that what interested us Latvians was the question of Abrene, that they called this border a provisional border. So then, evidently, they admit the idea that this border could be altered—perhaps to the benefit of Latvia, and also of Estonia."

The interviewer then asks: "Is this the USSR customs committee or the customs of Russia?"

Salins replies: "Unfortunately, I must say the following: While staying in Moscow I was not able to receive a proper answer to what they really represent. They represented themselves as the USSR Customs Committee, but at the same time it could be felt that they also represented the interests of Russia."

Lawyer Says Charges Against Rubiks 'Unfounded'

OW1510005391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] I. Torgashev, lawyer of the leader of the outlawed Latvian Communist Party A. Rubiks, told the newspaper "Diena" that, having familiarized himself with the records of his client's questioning, with resolutions adopted by the central committee of the Latvian Communist party and with the press conference given by his client on August 19, 1991, he developed a liking for Rubiks. According to I. Torgashev, the charges that his client called for overthrowing Latvia's legitimate authorities are unfounded.

Charges against Alfreds Rubiks are based on Article 55 of Latvia's Criminal Code: "Intention to seize power by force and overthrow the lawful government".

According to I. Torgashev, apart from verbal support for the state-of-emergency committee, Rubiks did nothing unlawful, since at the above mentioned press conference he asserted that the Latvian Communist Party will take part in elections lawfully and that it will seek to carry out its own policy in Latvia. I. Torgashev also said that, judging by the results of investigations known to him, nothing proves that there were contacts between A. Rubiks and the special police unit (OMON) stationed in Riga. According to the lawyer, the case of Alfreds Rubiks is a dispute concerning ideology, not concrete actions".

Continued Central Television Broadcasts Unsure

LD1210090191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0130 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] A Latvian youth newspaper has asked its readers whether they will miss Central Television programs. The newspaper writes that this was prompted by a report that because of the high price of retransmitting Central Television broadcasts to Latvia it will probably soon be impossible to watch them. There are promises to retain the Russian channel.

A TASS correspondent was told at the Latvian television center that the price has hardly changed. The root of the problem is that money use to come from Moscow, and now it doesn't. This year that amount came to more than 4 million rubles.

Lithuania

Government To Draft 7,000 Citizens

LD1410163991 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius October 14 TASS—Some 7,000 Lithuanian citizens will be called up for service in October-November, in accordance with the Lithuanian Government's decision on conscription service to protect the territory and for alternative labour service.

The decision published here today, reads that 19-year-old and older citizens physically fit for service will be drafted. The territory protection ministry is instructed to supervise the call- up.

The government also issued a resolution on creating the Lithuanian Interior Ministry's own troops.

"The decision follows the great difficulties the territorial protection ministry experiences with finding volunteer border guards," Lithuanian Vice Premier Zigmas Vaisvila has said. "We also need to replace Soviet interior troops with our own units."

Vaisvila said some Lithuanian citizens will be called up for alternative service. The forestry, health protection and transport ministries have all submitted applications for a specific number of people.

Landsbergis Reissues Call For Troop Pullout

OW1110182091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1630 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Parliament leader Vytautas Landsbergis has said on republican radio on October 11 that Lithuania must make itself safe from "a military coup that may take place in the Soviet Union." For this reason Lithuania wants the early withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The Lithuanian Parliament leader says that his republic seeks to gain the Western countries' support for its demands for the urgent Soviet Army pullout.

Landsbergis said that a special Lithuanian delegation will be seeking such support at the Madrid conference of NATO MPs [members of parliament] on security and cooperation in Europe.

Shevardnadze Remarks on 'Complicated' Talks

OW1010181691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Report by Mikhail Mayorov and Igor Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 9 the Lithuanian foreign minister Algirdas Saudargas and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin exchanged notes on establishing diplomatic relations on the level of embassies. Nevertheless it's a long way to go till a full normalization of bilateral relations is reached. Talks will have to be held. The Soviet delegation will be led by the former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Soviet Foreign Policy Association and one of those who formed the Movement for Democratic Reforms.

Talks between the USSR and Lithuania will be very complicated, said E. Shevardnadze in an exclusive interview for DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. These talks will be even more complicated than those with China or with the U.S., since they will involve a state that used to be a part of the USSR.

According to E. Shevardnadze, a lot of serious problems will have to be resolved. "Nevertheless my task is to hold talks so as to enable us to remain friends", the leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out. He means Russia, Belorussia and other republics making up the USSR on the one hand, and Lithuania on the other. He hopes that this goal will be reached, E. Shevardnadze said. "I'll do all I can in the interests of the Lithuanian people and other peoples populating the USSR in order to preserve everything positive that united us all", he said.

E. Shevardnadze stressed that cultural, scientific, economic and other ties between the Russian and Lithuanian peoples that developed for decades and even for centuries should be preserved. He believes that this task is quite accomplishable, even though it will require a lot of effort.

He found it hard to answer the question as to how long talks with Lithuania will last. There are many issues and details whose settlement will take time as well as patience and endurance on both sides, he said. "The main thing for us is to remain good neighbors and friends", E. Shevardnadze pointed out.

It's important to conclude the talks relatively fast, he said. "When negotiations go on endlessly, certain dissonance emerges. Therefore it's desirable to conclude this work as fast as possible", said E. Shevardnadze.

Landsbergis Solicits Scandinavian Support

PM1510082791 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 1

[Modest Sheynberg report: "The Trip Was Successful"]

[Text] "The trip was successful," Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, declared at a news conference held late Friday evening right after his return from Copenhagen.

The purpose of the visit, Landsbergis said, was for representatives of the Council of Baltic States to meet with the Nordic Council Presidium to discuss the prospects for cooperation between the two regional organizations. The structures of the two councils do not correspond to one another, and attempts are now being made to create some kind of parity. To this end, in particular, an interparliamentary assembly will be formed in October, which will include 25 deputies from each of the Supreme Soviets of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and its presidium will be elected. The assembly will be a mechanism for cooperation with the Nordic Council, which also has a similar organization.

It has been decided to invite each other to participate in sessions, to hold annual meetings of the presidiums, and to encourage mutual contacts between parties which have international analogues, such as the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, and "Greens." The possibility of a unified policy in international organizations was discussed. A common working group is being set up for the specific elaboration of a cooperation program. The Nordic Council Council of Ministers has allocated 30 million kroner for its needs.

Landsbergis also spoke about a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, at which it was reported that Denmark is allocating 9.5 billion kroner for a development program for East Europe, including the three Baltic states. It is a question of aid, credits, and also guarantees for foreign investors.

On its way home the Lithuanian delegation stopped over in Riga, where it had, in Landsbergis' estimation, a very useful conference with the Latvian leadership. Many urgent problems were discussed, including a joint stance at the upcoming talks with the USSR.

The situation regarding the Treaty on the Limitation of Conventional Arms in Europe, concluded in the circumstances of the past, is a question of considerable importance today. The crux of the matter is that this document, signed behind Lithuania's back and without its consent, provides for the presence of a foreign army on its territory. From the juridical viewpoint an ambiguous situation has taken shape, Landsbergis believes. It has been decided to hold a session of the Council of Baltic States in the next few days and to adopt a joint statement there on the necessary amendment of the aforesaid treaty.

"As is known from the press, the Soviet Army's withdrawal from the territory of Lithuania was for us one of the most urgent questions among those discussed, and a promise was received of the Nordic Council states' support for our position. Similar assurances have been received previously from the leaders of the United States, Germany, and France. Are we talking about political pressure on the USSR or about some kind of economic assistance, for instance, to resolve the technical aspects of this problem?" EKHO LITVY's correspondent asked.

"Above all, we must know how many formations of which type are based in Lithuania," Landsbergis replied. "Because the troops will not vanish in the course of a single day, and so we need this information both for the security of our citizens and because of our obligations to the world public. Are there really no nuclear or possibly bacteriological and chemical weapons in Lithuania? We have neither the necessary equipment nor the experts to carry out prompt and effective verification in this respect. That is why we need foreign specialists. Regarding inducements to withdraw the troops, of course a unified position on the part of states and international organizations can and must play an extremely important role."

Union of Lithuanian Poles Leader Interviewed

PM1510084591 Opole TRYBUNA OPOLSKA in Polish 1 Oct 91 p 4

[Interview with Jan Sienkiewicz, chairman of Union of Poles in Lithuania, by correspondent Zbigniew Rozanski; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rozanski] Mr. Chairman, what is the situation of Polish people now that Lithuania has regained her independence?

[Sienkiewicz] I am sorry to have to say it, but our perpetual pessimists' worst expectations are now becoming reality. They always feared that the moment Lithuania came to realize that there is no authority to restrain it, it would feel free to tackle matters which it had not been able to address before. And although there is much truth in the claims that it is very hard to come to an agreement with Lithuanians on such fundamental matters as the rights of ethnic minorities—which, of course, they themselves demanded while they remained under Moscow's domination—it is still imperative that we insist on holding talks and demanding that the rights of all Poles be consistently respected. For, after all, regardless of which blueprint for relations between the Lithuanians and the Polish minority is accepted, Polish people will still live in Lithuania because their roots are there; because their children were born there; and because their home is there. Incidentally, I should like to express my satisfaction with the fact that Polish media have for some time now published objective reports on the life of Poles resident in Lithuania.

To return to specific problems, I believe that we are now witnessing the scenario which was previously acted out in Lithuania's Kowno [Kaunas] District in the interwar period. I would not wish to claim categorically that my conclusions are infallible here, but there are certainly enough indications that Lithuania wants to do away with the Polish problem in a most radical manner. This would mean first a dissolution of rayon administrative boards and councils, then a blow against Polish public organizations, magazines, and newspapers, and finally pressure applied to Poles living in Lithuania to adopt [Lithuanian] citizenship, which the Lithuanian authorities have already made so unacceptable to the Polish population.

[Rozanski] What opinion do Lithuanian authorities hold about the Polish minority?

[Sienkiewicz] For more than three years they have been painting Poles as bolsheviks hostile to the idea of Lithuania's independence. In other words, the image of an average Pole was that of a backward reactionary, a Moscow sympathizer, and so on.

[Rozanski] But if we analyze this more closely, what was the alleged connection linking the majority of Poles in the Vilnius region with bolshevism? Has anyone attempted to define it in more credible terms?

[Sienkiewicz] Before Sajudis was born in Lithuania, every plenum of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and every report forwarded to Moscow contained the following complaints: "The political instruction campaign is progressing very well; people do not attend church services, but are joining the party instead. There are only two rayons which continue to foul up the statistics: Vilnius and Soleczniki [Salcininkai]. They continue to insist on going to church there, and they are not joining the party." Now that the situation has changed and Lithuania has regained her independence, to everyone's surprise these two rayons became the most blatantly red of them all. Can anyone understand this? Of course not, for it is political tactics....

[Rozanski] The Polish community in Lithuania apparently suffers from a shortage of intelligentsia. What is the real picture?...

[Sienkiewicz] The Polish intelligentsia was first decimated by Hitler and then by Stalin. Those who survived emigrated from Lithuania. And this is our major difficulty. Today two-thirds of all Poles here are peasants resident in rural communities. Not all of them—though this applies equally to Lithuanian peasants—are capable of making independent decisions, even in such matters as elections to local self-government councils. In most cases their decisions are influenced by the voice of the local leader, the secretary to the Sajudis head man in the area. This is a rule in all rayons, because voting according to the leader's wishes can secure you a supply of hay, a piece of grazing land, a strip of land to cultivate your own crops, and so on. This system of dependence is still in force today. If we are to break with it, we need new leaders. But where are they to come from?

[Rozanski] What is the current position of the Union of Poles in Lithuania?

[Sienkiewicz] After almost two years of the Union's activity we decided that our strategy would rely on the Union's mass membership. We were less interested in our members' political opinions and more in their declaration of Polish nationality. This way of looking at things has led us to a blind alley. We realized that we must distance ourselves from the former nomenklatura—and even more so in the economic than the political sense. Those people still wield most power and, despite all the noble declarations and fine slogans they come out with, they are determined to maintain and preserve their influence. It was over this point that the Union's popularity began to decrease. However, that mistake has been amended now, though we still feel its consequences today. Even as we call people to join forces together in certain actions, we note their reluctance to follow our advice. For example, we say to them: "Take Lithuanian citizenship, even if your convictions and beliefs are contrary to this. Otherwise you will cease to count as rightful citizens here and you will fail to retain your land, your homes, and other property which has hitherto belonged to you." However, people are very cautious...

[Rozanski] What could Poland, as the original motherland, do for Poles living in Lithuania?

[Sienkiewicz] In my opinion you could perfectly well dispose with patriotic slogans along the lines of "I am president of all Poles," and instead take a close look at what the Germans are currently doing to help their compatriots abroad. They strive to reinforce Silesia's economic position and create "bridgeheads" concentrating large numbers of Germans living in close communities. We also need to have our economic initiatives encouraged and supported. Let new economic ventures, new hotels, and new Polish restaurants be set up throughout Lithuania. Let the popular image of a Pole in Lithuania be that of an embodiment of good management, good husbandry, and prosperity. This could strengthen our position enormously and give us a bargaining card in the economic game, while it can also bring profit for Polish investors. Let people who left their homes, land, and so on, in Wilenszczyzna [Lithuanian territories in prewar Poland] return here, claim what is theirs, and set up economic ventures. Let them definitely claim their property. They will also reinforce our position in this economic wilderness....

[Rozanski] The next congress of the Union of Poles in Lithuania will begin 14 December this year. What matters will be foremost on its agenda?

[Sienkiewicz] First and foremost we will strive to define the union's standpoint and role regarding such issues as privatization, citizenship, and others which are forced upon us by Lithuanian authorities. We must also answer the question whether the Union is to concern itself with politics or to devote its energies to educating the Polish community in Lithuania and reinforce Polish cultural traditions here. The congress must also debate and answer the question of the Union's policy lines and map out the directions of the Union's activity so it can serve the whole Polish community in Lithuania most effectively.

Provisions of Immigration Law Detailed

PM1110132491 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with Professor Stasis Vaitekunas, leader of the working party which drafted the Lithuanian Law on Immigration, conducted by L. Filipaviciene; place and date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction: "The Code on Immigration: What Does It Promise Us?"]

[Text] The Law on Immigration adopted by the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet will come into force 1

January 1992. The law was published in EKHO LITVY and raised certain questions in readers' minds. Our correspondent put those questions to Professor Stasis Vaitekunas, leader of the working party which drew up the Law on Immigration.

[Filipaviciene] Since becoming an independent state Lithuania has run up against international problems—immigration and emigration—in earnest. We are building our state anew, as it were, and this is a responsible and fraught business. Many of our compatriots want to know how the Lithuanian Law on Immigration corresponds to similar laws in other countries.

[Vaitekunas] In drafting this law we studied practically all the laws of the countries of Europe and America; it was only the African laws, perhaps, that we did not have to hand. We also examined the international agreements which Lithuania has signed or recognized. The main objective of such analysis was to ensure our new law observed international norms, human rights, and the rights of citizens.

[Filipaviciene] And do you think that you have succeeded in this? Does the law not contain deviations, say, from those norms generated by objective necessity? Temporary ones, perhaps.

[Vaitekunas] There are no such deviations. The law was scrutinized by legislators and lawyers—and there were no comments on this topic.

[Filipaviciene] What objectives does the adoption of this law serve, what does it promise us?

[Vaitekunas] Its objective is above all to provide the inhabitants of Lithuania with social guarantees, the opportunity to have a job and housing, and to provide for oneself and one's family. Large and uncontrolled growth in the permanent population through new arrivals could hamper this and cause, for example, a growth in unemployment, and so forth.

Moreover, a certain balance in population structures has to be observed in the state to prevent, say, the numbers of people of one nationality suddenly increasing to the detriment of another. And in general terms the law is designed to protect the state from an uncontrolled influx of newcomers. There is the bitter experience of Western countries where the law allows them simply to deport those who have arrived unofficially contrary to the set quota.

[Filipaviciene] And how will the interests of people living in Lithuania who have now—through objective reasons—been separated from their relatives by a state border be protected here? Will they be able, if need be, to unite their families?

[Vaitekunas] The services dealing with immigration will undoubtedly take blood relations into account above all...

[Filipaviciene] That is to say, relatives will have preference in the immigration quota?

[Vaitekunas] Yes, the law provides for this, which is in accord with international agreements.

[Filipaviciene] The quota—what is it based on in general terms, will it change, and who will enjoy prior right to come and live in our state?

[Vaitekunas] The immigration quota will be fixed annually by the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet on the basis of government proposals.

The immigration quota is set in different ways in different countries; most of them, like here, have a so-called floating annual quota, that is to say, the desired number of people arriving changes. But in Estonia, for example, they have a different approach. Their law sets a permanent immigration quota—0.1 percent of the population. This is hardly the best approach: What if one particular year the national economy needs a larger number of people in a specific speciality, but the government cannot change the quota?

[Filipaviciene] But that is their problem, you could say. But what does the size of our immigration quota depend on?

[Vaitekunas] Again the number of people accepted for permanent residence depends on the number that Lithuania is in a position to provide with work and housing and to guarantee social protection...

[Filipaviciene] That is what the law promises not just to those already living in Lithuania, but to those whom it "invites" to become permanent inhabitants, does it not?

But we have not specified (behind all the promises made) the main thing: Will it only be Lithuanian citizens who can invite in from another country someone who does not have Lithuanian citizenship?

[Vaitekunas] Exactly so. That is their right.

[Filipaviciene] But what right will be enjoyed here by permanent citizens of Lithuania who have not taken Lithuanian citizenship, but who honor and observe Lithuania's laws?

[Vaitekunas] They will be able to invite people they want to visit them on a temporary residential basis. That, after all, is how it is in other countries.

[Filipaviciene] What is the immigration quota based on and how will it be set?

[Vaitekunas] Preliminary data from various ministries, above all from the Ministries of Labor, Social Protection, and Culture, will show the size of the workforce in a given sphere and the kinds of specialists, skills, and so forth needed by the republic. If a teacher from Smolensk Oblast arrives, for example, he should be sure that he will work in his specialism in a Russian school...

[Filipaviciene] Will the person's age play a part?

[Vaitekunas] Alas, as in other countries, all other things being equal, an immigrant's age, after a certain point, does not count in his favor. Although each specific case will be examined on its merits and there may be cases where a more mature person is preferable. It is difficult to talk about this now—more than three months still remain before the law comes into effect and, like any other law, it needs to be tested in practice.

[Filipaviciene] What else does the immigration quota "envisage"?

[Vaitekunas] A certain quota for each country from which people wish to come will be set as part of the overall quota. That is, so many from Belorussia, so many from Poland, Russia, Latvia, Estonia and so forth can come this year.

[Filipaviciene] And will a certain, say, historically established percentage of people of different nationalities living in Lithuania be observed here?

[Vaitekunas] Certainly. On the one hand, a balance should be observed in this regard, on the other, the wishes of individual national communities are taken into account. The Ukrainian community, let us say, applies for a choirmaster to come to live and work here permanently. That will be taken into account in preparing information for the government.

[Filipaviciene] The law states "The conditions and procedure for the assimilation of immigrants are set by the Lithuanian Republic government." What does that mean?

[Vaitekunas] This point together with the quota and the number of Internal Affairs Ministry documents to be submitted with an immigration application caused the greatest number of disputes in our working party. It was said that an immigrant must know Lithuanian and the history, traditions, and culture of the country to which he is coming. But we settled on a minimum, regarding it as more democratic, and enshrined this in the law: "Conditions are to be created for an immigrant to learn Lithuanian and the fundamentals of the Lithuanian Republic Constitution if he so wishes." And all the rest he will master himself; again, if he wishes.

The documents which I mentioned earlier also require a minimum. The main ones, in our opinion, are stipulated. For the rest, time will tell: If the immigrant is a regular guy, we will all get on fine together.

[Filipaviciene] This, by all accounts, is one of our shortest and most succinct laws...

[Vaitekunas] Incidentally, we were surprised at the voluminous and rather involved laws on immigration and emigration in the FRG and America. We decided that our law, however, is not so much for the authorities as for people who seek a second homeland, and it must be simple and easily understood by them.

Helsinki Accords To Be Fully Signed

OW1510004491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press secretary of Lithuania's parliament Audrius Azubalis told newsmen in Vilnius on Monday that a Lithuanian delegation led by President Vytautas Landsbergis is leaving for Helsinki today to sign the final documents of the Helsinki Accords on European security and cooperation. It has invited President Mauno Koivisto. At 10:30 the ceremony of signing will take place. At 14:00 a news conference will be given.

The same day the delegation will return to Lithuania, said A. Azubalis.

Ties With Georgia, Belorussia, Ukraine Viewed

OW1510014791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday President Vytautas Landsbergis is conducting a conference of leading Lithuanian officials, the parliament's press secretary A. Azubalis told newsmen.

The conference is attended by deputy chairman of Lithuania's parliament Ceslovas Stankiavicius, deputy prime minister Zigmas Vaisvila, minister without portfolio Alexandras Abisala, first deputy foreign minister Voldemaras Katkus and other officials.

According to A. Azubalis, those present are discussing "some aspects of Lithuania's relations with Georgia, Belorussia and the Ukraine". The press secretary pointed to the need to work out a new concept of ties between Lithuania and Georgia in the light of tensions aggravating in Georgia.

Supreme Soviet

Session Held on 11 Oct; Decisions Adopted

LD1110212891 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The Russian parliament worked productively during its session today. The Supreme Soviet adopted a decision bringing the law on highway funds in the USSR [as heard] into force from 1 January 1992. The law on payments for land was adopted in principle, as well as a decision on bringing it into force. The law will discourage wasteful use of land by increasing taxes. Contrary to expectations, deputies adopted a Supreme Soviet decision on the draft treaty on an economic community without much argument. The concept of the draft treaty was approved in principle.

A decision on the heads of executive authority in Republics belonging to the RSFSR was adopted. This stipulates, among other things, that the heads of executive authority—the presidents of the republics—belong to a single system of executive authority in the RSFSR, headed by the president of Russia. If decisions made by a president of one of the Republics come into contradiction with the constitution and the law, they can be suspended by the president of the RSFSR.

Because of the leak of information to Germany's DER SPIEGEL magazine about the investigation into the coup d'etat, the deputies had been planning to hear a report from RSFSR Procurator General Valentin Stepankov. However, the examination of this question was deferred since he is currently in Chechen-Ingushetia.

Resolution on Draft Economic Treaty

PM1510103591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 91 p 1

["Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Draft Treaty on an Economic Community"]

[Text] Having listened to and discussed the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Government report on the draft treaty on an economic community, in order to accelerate its signing and subsequent ratification, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet rules that:

1. The idea behind the draft treaty should be approved in the main.

2. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium is instructed to set up a working group composed of RSFSR people's deputies to prepare the treaty for ratification.

3. During the final work on the draft treaty it is recommended that the RSFSR president be guided by the following considerations:

It must be borne in mind that the treaty enters into effect on condition that the sides that signed the treaty ratify all the agreements enumerated in it and the agreement on the principles of interstate relations;

The treaty text must provide that each of the sides has the right of veto when major questions are being considered;

There must be provision for a special agreement to be concluded regulating the sides' responsibility in cases of nonfulfillment of commitment under the treaty;

Chapter IX, "Economic Community Institutions," is to be fundamentally reworked, to provide for the conclusion of a special agreement on this matter;

The transfer of powers to manage the republics' central banks to the USSR State Bank is ruled out of order;

The supreme banking inspectorate will have no powers to revise or suspend banking union decisions;

Funds are to be formed for economic aid to the republics, mainly on a bilateral basis.

4. It is laid down that the decisions of existing and new union and interrepublic organs to which the RSFSR has not delegated powers have the force of recommendations on RSFSR territory and come into effect after they have been examined by the relevant organs of RSFSR legislature and executive.

5. Russian Federation financing of union and interrepublic organs whose powers are not confirmed by the RSFSR and in whose activities it does not participate will cease.

6. For the period until the treaty enters into effect measures are to be adopted to conclude interrepublican economic agreements on urgent matters.

[signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

RSFSR House of Soviets, Moscow, 11 October 1991

Draft Economic Agreement Approved

OW1110214891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation approved the draft economic-community treaty by a 162 to 2 vote. The adopted resolution suggests that the president of the Russian Federation should take into account the following considerations while finalizing the treaty:

The treaty should go into effect on the condition that the sides ratify all the agreements listed in it.

Each side should have the veto right.

Chapter 9 on the institutions of the economic community should be radically reviewed.

The transfer to the USSR Central Bank of the function of controlling the central banks of the republics should considered inadmissible. [sentence as received]

In the Russian Federation, the decisions of the Union and inter-republican bodies should be of recommendatory character and come in force only upon their approval by the Russian Federation's legislative and executive authorities.

The parliament of he Russian Federation has ruled that the Russian Federation stop financing the Union bodies, whose powers it has not confirmed and in which it does not participate.

Resolution on Constituent Power Passed

OW1110214491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has passed a resolution on the top executive power in the constituent republics. The resolution actually approves the introduction of presidency in the constituent republics of the Russian Federation. According to it, the president of the constituent republic is considered to be the supreme executive heading the government.

The responsibilities of the head of the executive authority shall be defined by the republic, on the basis of its constitution. The decisions taken by the head of the executive authority of a constituent republic may be suspended by the president of the Russian Federation in case they go against the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation.

The date of the election of the heads of the executive authority in the constituent republics shall also be set by the republics on their own by agreement with the presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet.

Presidium Meets on Archives Investigation

LD1410203491 Moscow TASS in English 2011 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet today approved the Commission on the Organisation of the Transfer-Reception of Archives of the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet State Security Committee, for their state preservation and uses.

The commission is to determine the structure of the archives, the volume of their preservation and the classification of documents liable to the transfer, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Human Rights Committee Sergey Kovalyev said.

The commission will have to deal with issues of state importance, including the terms of lifting the "classified" sign from intelligence cases. That is why all the issues should be considered under the strict parliamentary control, Kovalyev said.

Presidium members took into account the draft law "on the introduction of changes and additions to the criminal code, the code of penal procedure and the code of the Russian Federation of administrative violations." The draft law is submitted for the parliamentary consideration by the Russian president as an initiative.

Some of the codes' provisions, concerning, in particular, the enterprise or the passport system, do not correspond to the market economy and are not democratic, stressed Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviets' Committee on Legislature Sergey Shakhray. He said that the Russian president proposed to cancel the capital punishment for economic crimes.

The meeting resulted in a discussion of the ways to "upgrade the activities of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation". However, the members of the Presidium preferred to talk about this behind closed doors.

Resolution on Property Transfers Published

PM1510105591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 91 p 1

["Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Property of All-Union and Interrepublic Public Organizations and Funds on the Territory of the RSFSR"]

[Text] In order to create conditions for the development of the public movement in Russia, in the interests of the peoples of the Russian Federation, and guided by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] law on providing an economic foundation for the republic's sovereignty, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet rules that:

1. In cases where state and public organs or other republics' local self-government bodies have unilaterally confiscated the property of all-Union or interrepublic public organizations or funds on their territory, the RSFSR Council of Ministers is to transfer the property of these public organizations or funds on the territory of the RSFSR to the RSFSR State Committee for Property; it will subsequently become the property of the republic structures of the corresponding RSFSR public organizations.

2. It is to be laid down that a decision by organs of an all-Union or interrepublic public organization or fund to

divide the organization or fund into republic public organizations or funds is not considered to be a reorganization if the republic structures of the particular all-Union or interrepublic organizations or funds (branches and so on) were not legal entities at the time the decision was made.

3. RSFSR arbitration courts are to examine disputes in connection with the elimination or reorganization of all-Union or interrepublic public organization or funds in accordance with the RSFSR law on providing an economic foundation for Russian Federation sovereignty.

4. This resolution does not apply to the property of existing political parties and enters into effect the moment it is adopted. The rules of this resolution stipulated in provisions 1 and 2 apply to juridical relationships that arose prior to its adoption.

R.I. Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

RSFSR House of Soviets, Moscow, 27 September 1991

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Ready To Sign Economic Agreement

LD1110135491 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Soviet State Council on Friday [11 October] that Russia is ready to sign an economic agreement by October 15.

He said, however, all 17 agreements should be ready by that time.

He stressed the need to stop financing economic bodies that are not prescribed by the agreement and find more flexible and acceptable forms of relations between republican and federal banks.

Yeltsin Urged To Sign Treaty

OW1110133991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 130 industrial head-managers in Nizhny Novgorod have urged Russia's President Boris Yeltsin to sign the treaty of economic union without delay and proceed to form an efficient government for Russia. According to them, the present Council of Ministers is either inactive or else totally incompetent. Besides, "an unhealthy atmosphere" pervades the echelons of presidential power in Russia.

At their conference in Nizhny Novgorod the captains of local industry warned the Russian authorities that, unless an economic agreement were signed within 2 weeks, all industrial facilities in the city and region, including numerous defence and machine building plants, will simply stop working for lack of components and units. At least 900,000 people might lose their jobs.

Boris Nemtsov, the Russian President's representative in Nizhny Novgorod region who chaired the conference told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that the leading industrialists censured Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov for issuing instructions that actually blocked the establishment of horizontal ties with facilities in other Soviet republics.

Yeltsin To Sign Decree on Resignation

LD1410142291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], will sign a decree on the resignation of the entire Council of Ministers in the very near future. This was revealed in an interview given to an INTERFAX correspondent by Sergey Yushenkov, leader of the Radical Democrats parliamentary faction. According to Yushenkov, Yeltsin spoke of such intentions last Saturday [12 October] at a meeting with people's deputies who are representatives of the Democratic Russia movement. Boris Yeltsin voiced the supposition that some of the present ministers could join the new government. According to Yushenkov, the names of Yevgeniy Saburov, Mikhail Maley, Nikolay Fedorov, and Mikhail Poltoranin were mentioned, in particular.

Saburov Urges Council of Ministers To Resign

LD1110174191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1627 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 11 Oct (TASS)—Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers and minister of economics, today sent a letter of resignation to RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin which also calls for the resignation of the whole republican Council of Ministers. This has been announced by the Information Department of the RSFSR president.

In his letter Yevgeniy Saburov accused several members of the Council of Ministers of being "engaged not in constructive, specific work, but in destroying things." He noted that, despite the stances agreed with Boris Yeltsin regarding the treaty for an economic community, the Council of Ministers had undertaken "desperate and juridically improper steps aimed at blocking in any way possible" the signing of the treaty. Yevgeniy Saburov added that a group of ministers tried to make substantial revisions to the treaty, seriously impairing it where Russia was concerned.

"The RSFSR Supreme Soviet," says the letter, "found the work of the Council of Ministers unsatisfactory; then the chairman of the Council of Ministers resigned, and the Council of Ministers made an attempt to thwart the president's intentions—all this makes it essential for the Council of Ministers to resign immediately. In the meantime I feel it my duty to submit my resignation."

In an interview today with a TASS correspondent, RSFSR State Councillor Sergey Shakhray expressed a different viewpoint on the reason for Saburov's resignation. In his view, the resignations of Yevgeniy Saburov and Igor Gavrilov—both deputy chairmen of the RSFSR Council of Ministers—"was not because of indignation over the actions of the Russian Government, but because they had previously received invitations to join Silayev in the new union structure." (The former chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Ivan Silayev currently heads the Committee for Operational Management of the USSR National Economy)

Saburov Interviewed on Political Disputes

LD1310002991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Interview with Yevgeniy Fedorovich Saburov, deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, by TV Inform announcer Tamara Komarova; from the "TV Inform" newscast—live in studio]

[Text] [Komarova] Despite the Alma-Ata agreement there are still many political disputes and especially in the Russian parliament, although lately we have seen very clearly that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is capable of entering conflicts but is also capable of resolving them. In this case he has to settle them with his Council of Ministers and parliament. During the president's vacation, two ministers have resigned, standing up for what the president also turned out to be supporting—the earliest possible signing of the economic agreement. With us in the studio is Yevgeniy Fedorovich Saburov, deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers.

It has been learned that your powers have been confirmed. Does that mean you are not resigning?

[Saburov] The president told me that he did not accept my resignation and entrusted me with redrafting the treaty—Russia's work on the treaty—and work on the agreements: There are quite a lot of them and they must be fairly serious.

[Komarova] What do you think, if you stay—and I hope that is the case—will it mean more discussions in the parliament and Government of Russia?

[Saburov] As far as I can see, my colleagues in the government have somewhat changed their position and there is no such confrontation now. As for parliament, it will really have to be worked on and ratification of the treaty will go via parliament. I know parliament as a whole has approved the concept of the treaty and has set up a commission for work on the treaty. I very much hope for close cooperation with the commission, especially as I know that in our parliament there is a major expert on interrepublican and interregional relations, academician Granberg, and I very much hope for his cooperation.

[Komarova] I realize that if you are staying, you are sure that your economic program will be carried out, but to what extent does it tally with the economic agreement that is being debated?

[Saburov] If the treaty on the economic community is signed, then economic reform will simply proceed more easily. It does not mean it will be easy. Economic reform is always a difficult thing. But at least there will not be artificial obstacles in the form of confrontation between republics. That is the one thing we do not need in the implementation period of economic reform. Of course, I hope there will be peace and quiet for carrying out the economic reform.

[Komarova] Has the Supreme Soviet reached any decisions?

[Saburov] Well, on approval of the concept of the treaty as a whole and creation of a commission for working on the...

[Komarova, interrupting] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, the last question: In the press there has been very much debate on the question of professionals leaving the Russian parliament.

[Saburov] The government, you mean.

[Komarova] Excuse me, the government.

[Saburov] It is a very simple matter. Professionals come into the government, I mean economists, in order to do the reform. If the reform is not being done, then there is no sense in occupying a seat. That is not what we came for. But if the reform does go ahead, everyone will be happy to do it.

[Komarova] Thank you for this interview.

Yeltsin To Ask for Postponement of Elections

OW1510110491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President Boris Yeltsin intends to ask the parliament to postpone elections of the heads of administration scheduled for December 8. As the Russian state counsellor Sergey Shakhrai told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, the president's appeal to the parliament is expected to be considered on Thursday [17 October]. If the parliament turns down the president's request, he will probably use his right to veto, said Shakhrai. Elections should not be held on the threshold of economically hard winter, since "they'll lead to a paralysis of power locally in any case", the state counsellor said. "If elections are won by the partocrats, they'll form opposition to Russia's parliament. If it's the democrats who win, in many areas they'll find themselves in opposition to the old councils of people's deputies", Shakhrai explained.

Khasbulatov Remarks on Prime Ministerial Role

LD1210082691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] I do not see myself as Russian prime minister, Ruslan Khasbulatov stated in an interview with the parliamentarian correspondent of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY, commenting on the rumors that he is a candidate for chairman of the republican Council of Ministers.

Ruslan Khasbulatov feels that he will be of more use as chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet. Speaking about the the Fifth Congress of RSFSR Peoples Deputies, which resumes work on 28 October and at which the speaker of the parliament is to be elected, Khasbulatov noted that if the deputies have not lost their common sense they should make the only correct choice.

Official Dismissed for Supporting Coup Group

LD1410144891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 14 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has dismissed (Kostenyuk), chairman of the Orenburg Oblast Executive Committee, for supporting the activities of the State Committee for the State of Emergency.

Yeltsin Meets Democratic Russia Members

LD1210194191 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin conferred in the Russian White House today with representatives of the Democratic Russia Coordination Council and parliamentary groups in the Russian parliament representing a bloc of democratic movements.

According to a spokesman for the Information Department of the Russian president, they had a frank exchange of views on a wide range of political and economic problems facing Russia, as well as prospects for the near future.

Participants in the meeting discussed possible measures to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts, forms of cooperation with various public associations, the formation of the government, the speeding up of economic reforms and so on.

Agreement was reached on holding such meetings on a regular basis.

Official Says Leadership Crisis 'Exaggerated'

LD1210131191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] On his return to Moscow, Russia's president did not show particular dissatisfaction over the developments during his absence, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] State Councilor Sergey Shakhray told a TASS correspondent.

In his view, the talk about a crisis in Russia's leadership is greatly exaggerated, because, according to Shakhray, the resignation of two deputy chairmen of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, Yevgeniy Saburov and Igor Gavrilov, was brought about not by their indignation at the actions of the Russian Government, but by the fact that they already had been invited to join Silayev in the new Union structure.

Shakhray feels that Yeltsin has returned in fighting form. He is calm and self-confident. Evidently the president combined his holiday with work, but his next steps and decisions will be a subject of discussion at the 15 October meeting of the RSFSR State Council.

Yeltsin, Shakray Meet 11 Oct

LD1210025391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0130 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, Russian state adviser, has had a first business meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. It took place on the morning of 11 October and was devoted to a discussion of working documents which Shakhray has advanced at Yeltsin's instruction for study by the parliament. Under discussion, among other things, were the forthcoming elections of presidents of the eight republics of the Russian Federation. At the center of the problem is whether to recognize them as unconstitutional or to attempt to adopt a decision on the entry of the heads of the republics into a single system of Russian executive power under the authority of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president.

According to Shakhray, Yeltsin has come back in fighting form. He is calm and self-confident. His next steps and decisions will be the subject of discussion at the RSFSR State Council session on 15 October.

Yeltsin Appoints Fedorov Sakhalin Oblast Head

LD1310072891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1240 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 12 Oct (TASS)—A Russian presidential decree has appointed Professor Valentin Fedorov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast soviet executive committee, as head of the Sakhalin Oblast's administration. At the end of September, after the trip to the South Kurils by an Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] deputy foreign minister, Valentin

Fedorov launched an irreconcilable campaign in the oblast for the unconditional retention of the islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and Habomai under Russia's jurisdiction. Acting RSFSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov threatened to remove V. Fedorov from his post and return him to his institute. At a subsequent rally attended by many thousands of people, the Sakhalin inhabitants nominated the uncompromising professor for the post of head of the oblast administration.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin did not wait for the results of elections. At his first news conference, the governor stated that his position on the territorial issue still remains hardline, saying "one does not trade one's homeland."

Trade Unions Demand 'Autumn Offensive'

OW1410223291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 14 Oct 91

["Trade Unions Demand 'Autumn Offensive' and Threaten All- Russian Strike"—INTERFAX headline; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Monday [14 October] briefing for trade union activists, head of the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FITU) Igor Kryuchkov formulated the demands addressed to the Russian Government that will be made in the course of the autumn offensive. The action will take place on October 21-26.

Supporting the reforms and the freedom of entrepreneurship, the FITU insists that the Russian leadership must work out a well- defined programme of economic management for the next six to seven months, expected to be a very difficult period.

The trade unions demand a "well-defined and comprehensive mechanism for the privatisation of state assets and housing" to prevent a wildcat privatisation in which "work collectives are alienated from the assets created by collective labour."

Central Bank Chairman Plans Separate Currency

LD1510094691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0430 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] The intention of some republics to introduce their own currency shortly has evoked a reaction in Russia too.

According to reports from well-informed staff members of Russia's Central Bank, Chairman Demchenko is planning the introduction of a currency of our own in Russia as well. The unit of currency will remain the ruble, but with a special imprint—a triangle with the letter R.

It has become known that this measure is being implemented with a view to protecting the internal Russian market. The exchange will be carried out gradually. However, this method of achieving the desired aim is questionable. The DELOVOY MIR newspaper writes about this today. Undoubtedly something needs to be done. After all, it is no accident that the exchange rate for the dollar on the black market has soared by 30 percent this month.

Great doubts, however, are being aroused by the fact that the so-called new money will prove to be harder than the old, especially if a law is adopted on the indexation of money income. [sentence as heard]. There is one thing that is not in doubt: Russia will have to pay with gold, precious metals, and other assets for its cash which has landed up in the republics' national banks, as each of our banknotes stipulates.

Peace Committee Urges End to Nuclear Tests

LD1410145391 Moscow TASS in English 1308 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—The Russian Peace Committee and the public anti-military organisation "Novaya Zemlya-Nevada" on Monday [14 October] urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin to ban nuclear tests in the Novaya Zemlya archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.

The archipelago is the second Soviet testing site after Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan. The last test in Novaya Zemlya was made on October 24, 1990.

"Our appeal to the Russian president was prompted by our concern about the health of people living in the region and the devastating effect of testing on the environment," Vladimir Burakov, first deputy head of the committee, told TASS.

He said nuclear tests account for the increased number of congenital diseases, pregnancy and labour complications in the neighbouring Arkhangelsk region of northern Russia.

"We urge the president to take measures banning nuclear testing in Novaya Zemlya as promptly as he did with the Semipalatinsk testing range. It will release 650 million roubles for cleaning the ecological aftermath in the region," Burakov said.

Local Affairs

Yeltsin Representatives End Siberian Talks

LD1210221991 Moscow TASS in English 2101 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk October 12 TASS—A meeting of representatives of the Russian president in Siberia ended in Novosibirsk today. They described as unsatisfactory the preparation of the region for the privatisation of the state property.

Participants in the meeting adopted a message to Boris Yeltsin, which says that the absence of a clear stand in the Russian Government concerning the time, pace, priorities and mechanism of implementation of the privatisation law leads to the hampering of the process, makes local authorities assume an expectant stand and evokes a feeling of uncertainty in labour collectives. The meeting believes that privatisation problems should be discussed soon by the State Council.

The first meeting, that set the beginning of cooperation of the Russian preident's representatives, discussed other problems too. Specifically, they sent to the Russian Council of Ministers a plan of creating a centre of humanitarian sciences at Novosibirsk University on the basis of the former higher party school. It will include several departments, a school of people's deputies, a business school, an institute for the study of Russian culture and a museum of Russian culture in Siberia. Durable contacts with scientists all over the world, maintained by the Novosibirsk scientists, will help invite foreign teachers to work at the centre. Scientists from the Novosibirsk Academic City were among those who came up with the idea to create the centre of humanitarian sciences in Siberia.

Further Reportage on Chechen-Ingush Situation

OW1210161491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in Grozniy, the capital of the Chechen-Ingush Republic, remains tense. The armed formations of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People, led by retired General Dzhokhar Dudayev, control all of the state and public establishments with the exception of the republic's Interior Ministry. Classes are not given in local schools.

Mass disturbances continue in the Grozniy prison. The prisoners demand immediate release after which they promise to join the republican national guard, whose organization is advocated by the National Congress. They have had meetings with the Russian Federation's procurator-general, Valentin Stepankov, and also with people's deputies of the Russian Federation, with clergy and with representatives of the National Congress's Executive Committee. However, according to the Interior Ministry of the republic, the prisoners continue their protest and still keep the prison under control.

During a meeting organized by Dudayev's supporters in Grozniy on Friday [11 October], demonstrators demanded that a law on the citizenship of the Chechen Republic be adopted by October 15 and that the republic's president be elected by October 19.

National Guard Turn Over Buildings

LD1410200791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] INTERFAX reports that as a result of talks in Groznyy between a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet delegation and members of the all- national congress of the Chechen people, the building of the Chechen-Ingush's Council of Ministers, and the television and radio studios, which were occupied by Chechen National Guard detachments, have been handed over to the protection of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Rebel Leader Comments on Events

LD1510163591 Moscow TASS in English 1551 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groz.ny October 15 TASS—"The Chechen Congress Executive Committee did not plan to assume either legislative or executive power. However, the latest events have compelled us to take upon ourselves full responsibility for the situation in our republic," leader of the rebel forces in Chechen-Ingush (the northern Caucasus) Dzhakhar Dudayev told TASS.

According to this 46-year-old retired general, the Russian leadership was responsible for the aggravation of the situation in the republic, because it "is grossly meddling with the republic's affairs and is trying to revive the supreme provisional council as the only lawful organ of power".

The supreme provisional council was set up by the former Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush, but fell apart very soon under the pressure of the Chechen Congress Executive Committee and due to internal differences. It was declared dissolved. Today it is headed by procurator Baudi Bakhmadov. "The council," according to Dudayev, "is actually underground and its decisions are being published only by three newspapers, printed in districts inhabited by Russian-speakers".

Dudayev is sure that "no provocations or opposition by domestic or outside enemies will prevent the Chechen people from determining their future and holding presidential and parliamentary elections in the republic on October 27".

Touching on rumours that the Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress has passed sentences on Ruslan Khasbulatov and Aleksandr Rutskoy, and that it is making preparations to attack neighbouring Northern Ossetia, Dudayev said all this was also a provocation to destabilise the situation, which is tense as it is.

'Indignation' at Death Sentences

PM1310212591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
14 Oct 91 pp 1-2

[Special correspondent V. Kharlamov report: "People in Groznyy Will Not Suffer Diktat, and Rightly So"]

[Text] Groznyy-Moscow—An explosion of indignation has been caused in Checheno-Ingushetia by a Russian Television report that the NCCP [National Congress of the Chechen People] has supposedly sentenced R. Khasbulatov and A. Rutskoy to death in their absence.

A thousands-strong rally is being held in front of the Council of Ministers building in Freedom Square at which voices are being heard demanding that the disseminators of the provocative rumors be called to account and that Moscow's interference in the republic's affairs be stopped.

"This is a provocation aimed at wrecking the perceptible stabilization of the situation," M. Udugov, chairman of the NCCP Executive Committee Information Committee, believes. "Taking advantage of the presence in Groznyy of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] General Prosecutor V. Stepankov, we have prepared a protest in which we insist that the source of such disinformation be brought to light."

Nevertheless, talks between a Russian delegation and the leaders of the NCCP are continuing. It has just been learned that the sides have reached mutual agreement on a majority of points.

"The Executive Committee is prepared to rescind its decision of 9 October on the general mobilization of the population into a republican guard if the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium rescinds its resolution of 8 October 'On the Political Situation in the Chechen-Ingush Republic,'" Udugov told me. "Our position today is this—no state structure of power in the RSFSR has the right to interfere in the course of the elections of the president and the new parliament of Checheno-Ingushetia scheduled for 27 October. All control over the holding of these elections must be entrusted to the Central Electoral Commission. The NCCP Executive Committee is ready to make all reasonable compromises if the Russian leaders stop talking with us in the language of colonial diktat. As regards the question of Checheno-Ingushetia's state sovereignty, there is no question now of secession from the Russian Federation or the USSR. Only after the election of the new parliament and the adoption of the law on citizenship will the citizens of Checheno-Ingushetia, regardless of nationality and religion, determine their future fate by means of a general referendum."

Guards Posted Due to Death Threats

LD1210200591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] As the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY has learned, a militia position has been established outside the apartment of Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. He has been allocated a car with an escort and a guard. According to an executive who did not wish to be named, such extreme measures are required by reports that a death sentence has been pronounced on Ruslan Khasbulatov and Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of Russia, by extremist circles in Chechen-Ingush.

Aleksandr Rutskoy has a guard befitting his rank. The same executive said the action planned by the extremists is apparently in response to the principled position of the Russian leadership at the talks in Groznyy.

Rutskoy Accused of Aggravation

LD1110120891 Moscow TASS in English
1147 GMT 11 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy October 11 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksander Rutskoy's efforts to settle the conflict in Chechen- Ingushetia only aggravated the political situation in the republic, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a leader of the Chechen national movement, told TASS by phone.

He said participants in a 50,000-strong rally in support of the Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress expressed indignation over statements accusing committee leader Dzhakhar Dudayev of opposing the republic's elders.

Shooting was reported near the investigation prison in Groznyy last night. Eyewitnesses said police fired in the air to quell the inmates after unsuccessful attempts to restore order in the prison for two days.

City residents took to the streets on Friday [11 October] to rally in support of or against the Executive Committee, which continues efforts to discuss with leaders of other public and political movements and parties ways to settle the conflict.

Rally Held To Demand Elections

LD1310004291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2200 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] The situation in Chechen-Ingush continues to remain tense. During the night of 11 October and during the day on 12 October in different districts of the town of Groznyy machine gun shots were heard. Our correspondent Radmir Alyanov gives details. [Alyanov] More often than not it (?broke out) in the area of the Groznyy investigation prison where the prisoners have been staging a mutiny for four days. Among the prisoners, as we have already reported, four have been injured and two killed. Their main demands are based on the fact that all their cases should be reexamined since they were sentenced under a communist regime. And this means, the prisoners assert, that today these sentences do not have juridical force.

The Russian parliamentary deputies who have been in the republic for two days continued meetings today with the leaders of the Islamic Chechen congress and the [word indistinct] party. They made speeches to those gathered at two alternative rallies that gathered, some in support of the executive committee and its actions and the others—these were representatives of the republic's intelligentsia—with scathing criticism of General Dudayev and the members of the executive committee that he heads. The representatives of the intelligentsia who had gathered at a rally in the former Lenin Square, which now has been renamed Shaykh Manzhur Square, demanded holding elections to the republic's parliament on 17 November. After that, by means of referendum, to determine whether to elect a president or not, and if so, then when? The people of the republic, they affirm, should choose for themselves how they should live.

The participants in the other rally in support of the executive committee are insisting on the definite proclamation of the Chechen Islamic republic and are demanding that elections be held on 27 October for both the president and representatives to the republic's parliament. They explain combining the elections by the need to avoid Moscow's interference in the affairs of a sovereign republic.

Radmir Alyanov specially for Radio Rossii.

Coalition Plans Moscow 'Shadow Government'

LD1110111891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Hot discussions are taking place in the Russian Supreme Soviet, and hot discussions seem to be starting in Moscow too. Our news service has found out that a coalition of democratic forces is being set up in the capital, consisting, according to preliminary information, of representatives of five political parties, the corps of deputies, and business circles. Within the framework of the coalition it is planned to create a shadow government for Moscow, an ideological and economic analysis group, and a press service.

Order at events conducted by the coalition will be ensured by Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon's public safety service.

The first stage of the constituent conference of the coalition of democratic forces of Moscow took place yesterday in the conference hall of the Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon soviet. The conference organizers were the Moscow association of "Democratic Russia", the interparty forum "Democratic Moscow", and the Moscow organization of the Popular Party of Russia.

All these organizations are in opposition to Gavrill Popov, the mayor of Moscow, and to the leadership of the Moscow city organization of the "Democratic Russia" movement.

International Affairs

Japanese Foreign Minister, Khasbulatov Meet

LD1210201591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1820 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 12 Oct (TASS)— The press service of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium has reported that Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, met Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in the RSFSR House of Soviets on 12 October.

During the conversation the parties asserted their mutual commitment to developing good-neighborly relations, and to striving at the current level of cooperation already established to resolve problems that have accumulated as a result of the contradictory politics of past years.

Regarding the problem of territorial demarcation, R. Khasbulatov noted that in this matter priority consideration should be accorded both to the interests of the people living on the disputed territories and of those of either side, under the guidance of international law.

T. Nakayama provided information on the Japanese Government's plans to render humanitarian aid to our country.

In conclusion, R. Khasbulatov stressed that the leadership of the Russian Federation is as one in its opinions on the matter of the subsequent development of links between the two great neighbors.

Opposition on Islands Return Cited

OW1310035291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 12 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and acting Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov both told Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Saturday [12 October] that they are ready to discuss a long-standing territorial dispute with Japan, Japanese officials said.

Pankin and Khasbulatov greatly appreciated Japan's offer, announced Tuesday [1 October], of 2.5 billion dollars worth of financial and trade assistance to the Soviet Union, the officials said.

Nakayama paid visits to Pankin and Khasbulatov soon after arriving in Moscow earlier Saturday on a weeklong visit.

Khasbulatov pointed out many difficulties in the way of settling the territorial dispute which involves Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets. The islands are all located northeast of Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido.

The Soviet Union seized the islands from Japan at the end of World War II, and Japan has long called for their return and for conclusion of a peace treaty with the Soviets.

The acting Russian parliamentary speaker told Nakayama that there are strong voices of opposition in the Russian Federation and in Sakhalin against Japan's demand for the return of the four disputed islands.

Pankin told Nakayama that the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation share a similar perception as well as a similar position on the territorial dispute.

Khasbulatov Cites 'Harsh Position'

LD1310212791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] A meeting between Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who is visiting our country, took place on 12 October in the Russian White house. After the meeting, our correspondent Nikolay Artemyev asked Ruslan Khasbulatov to give a brief account of the results of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] We, of course, talked about how to develop our mutual relations further, given that, according to the foreign minister, the message conveyed by the Supreme Soviet delegation to Prime Minister Kaifu was given attentive study in Japan.

[Artemyev] Boris Nikolayevich's message, that is?

[Khasbulatov] Of course, with our explanations on our position in regard to Japan. This idea, you will recall, is expunded in five-stage principles. We naturally talked about the fact that there are many obstacles to the kind of solution they are proposing. Issues cannot be resolved in the way that a certain comrade proposed, namely to hand over, to return these islands, and make an end of it. All the more so in that the view of the population is ambiguous.

Questions of handing over territory or not are among the most difficult in international relations. This is, therefore, a very difficult matter indeed. But if we can create an appropriate climate of trust between peoples, if there is appropriate backing in public opinion, if society really can become consciously more mature and reexamine its traditional views—what is necessary for that?

What is necessary, as we said last time and this time, too, is for Japanese diplomats to change their harsh position somewhat. Their position is that they regard the unity of the economy and of politics as immutable elements of foreign policy. That is, we cooperate economically only with those countries with which we have sufficiently equal political relations. We have no peace treaty with Japan. Well, we proposed a pretty flexible form of mutual relations, takng account of the fact that we are on the way to reforms and that we have great difficulties, and yet respecting this principle of Japanese foreign policy, whereby Japan could, outside the context of this principles, offer us pretty large-scale economic assistance. We developed the provisions which Japan was talking about in the context—I mean, of the Russian president's main idea. The foreign minister and I found full mutual understanding on these issues. [end recording]

'Mutual Understanding' Reached

LD1210181791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1717 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Oct [TASS]—"We have reached full mutual understanding with the Japanese foreign minister", Ruslan Khasbulatov, the acting chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet stated here today. He was replying to questions from journalists following the conclusion of talks with Taro Nakayama, the head of the Japanese foreign policy department, who is in Moscow.

According to Ruslan Khasbulatov, Japan has recognized that a substantial shift has occurred in its stance of unity of economics and politics. This was borne out by Japan's granting of $2.5 billion in credits to the Soviet Union. Khasbulatov continued: "The Japanese foreign minister was clear in stating that a large part of these credits is earmarked for Russia. Moreover, Japan is not linking this with politics, with the problem of the Kuril Islands. It is responding to our call, and when a neighbor has a fire you have to put it out by joint efforts".

The leader of the Russian parliament noted that Japan has also recognized that the recent visit to Tokyo by a RSFSR Supreme Soviet delegation, during which it conveyed a message from Boris Yeltsin to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, enabled Japan to take a new look at bilateral relations.

'Breakthrough' in Ties Noted

OW1210173591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, said that a "qualitative breakthrough" has been accomplished in relations between Japan and Russia. Speaking in Moscow on Saturday [12 October] after his meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, he said that the two sides had achieved complete mutual understanding.

Mr. Khasbulatov said that during the talks he spoke in detail about Boris Yeltsin's proposals on a five-stage settlement of the Kuril problem. There are many factors barring direct settlement of the problem (the transfer of four Kuril islands to Japan). One can overcome these barriers only by creating a climate of trust between the two countries and by winning public support. He said that to do so, Japan, too, should change its tough position on the settlement of economic and political relations with Russia.

Mr. Khasbulatov said that he had asked the Japanese foreign minister to render Russia "rather extensive economic aid" outside the framework of these principles.

He noted that in his opinion the Japanese side understood that "Russia was enveloped in the flames of fire which should be extinguished jointly." He also said that a greater part of the 2.5- billion Japanese credit would be passed to Russia and that this would not be connected with political relations between the two countries.

Khasbulatov Criticized for Statement

OW1510082391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0730 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Oleg Rumyantsev, a resposible secretary of the constitutional commission of the Russian Republic and a member of the Russian parliament, has criticized Ruslan Khasbulatov for a statement made after the meeting with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Taro Nakoyama.

Mr. Khasbulatov, having fulfilled his duties as head of the Russian parliament, stated that it would be possible to transfer the four Kurile Islands, the so-called "Northern Territories," gradually to Japan's jurisdiction.

Mr. Rumyantsev emphasized that only a Congress of Peoples' Deputies of the Russian Federation has the right to decide the priorities of Russia's international politics.

People's Deputies Baburin, Pavlov Visit Kurils

OW1010212291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1945 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Coordinators of the parliamentary group Russia, Sergei Baburin and Nikolai Pavlov, continued on Thursday [10 October] their tour of the Kuril Islands. In Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Kunashir Island) they took part in a rally of protest against the transfer of the Kurils to Japan. Head of the regional executive committee Valentin Fedorov and other speakers pointed to the need to develop the local economy through attracting large-scale investment.

S. Baburin and N. Pavlov promised to defend the islanders' rights in parliament and stressed the point that the very possibility of transferring the islands to Japan was out of the question.

Earlier the two MPs [members of parliament] visited Iturup Island and met with people in the village of Reidovo.

The way V. Fedorov sees it, Japan would be unlikely to offer the islanders any hard-currency compensation if the Kurils were finally transferred under Japanese control.

Sakhalin Governor on Issue

LD1110132691 Moscow TASS in English
1229 GMT 11 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitsky]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk October 11 TASS—"An overwhelming majority of the population of Iturup, Kunashir and Shikotan are firmly convinced the motherland cannot be sold," Sakhalin Regional Executive Committee head Valentin Fedorov has said.

Japan seeks a transfer of these islands and the Habomai Island in the Kuril chain to its jurisdiction.

Today, Fedorov and Russian Federation people's deputies Sergey Baburin and Nikolay Pavlov ended their tour of the South Kurils.

Fedorov told TASS it is necessary to "come out in a united front for Russia's territorial integrity". He believes that the territory is in an unfavorable economic state.

This resulted from "colonisation policy" pursued by central departments, which drew raw materials without developing industrial infrastructure and neglecting the social and cultural needs of the population, Fedorov said.

The only way out is through privatising property, creating parallel economic structures and introducing individual farms. It is hardly worth waiting for aid from Moscow. "It is necessary to rely upon our own forces," Fedorov said.

Baburin Opposes Return of Islands

OW1110131191 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1145 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon his return to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk after a tour of the Southern Kuriles, Sergey Baburin, coordinator of the parliamentary faction Russia, told journalists on Friday [11 October] that "there is no problem of 'Northern Territories' for Russia; there is the problem of the Kuriles which consists in the need to revitalize the region economically, socially and culturally by pooling the islanders' efforts with the efforts of people throughout Russia." Mr. Baburin said Kuril people were against transferring the islands to Japan, which view he shared and supported.

S. Baburin and his colleague Nikolay Pavlov accompanying him on the Kuril tour are determined to urge the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] parliament to denounce the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration under which the southern Kurile islands of Habomai and Shikotan will be transferred to Japan after a peace treaty has been concluded between the two countries.

As far as the Russian leadership's position is concerned, Mr. Baburin believes that any statesman attempting to sell Russian land "is sure to break his neck, since the Russian people will never forgive him for that."

Deputies: Kurils 'Must Remain'

LD1310102791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0030 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] RSFSR Peoples Deputies Baburin and Pavlov have expressed their view on the Kurils issue: The Kurils must remain in Russia. They just returned to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk from a private trip to the Kurils, where the deputies attempted to solicit the islanders' opinion on the south Kuril problem. Baburin expressed astonishment over the neighboring country's territorial claims. After all, according to him, back on 6 June 1978, the native residents of the Kurils and (?Hokkaido Ayni) swore allegience to the Russian Government. He called it monstrous to try to strive for the cession of the islands to Japan.

Valentin Fedorov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast executive committee, accompanied the deputies on their journey and supported Baburin. The oblast leader advocated holding a national referendum on the disputed territories' future.

News Conference Held

LD1510114591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Report by Radio Rossii parliamentary correspondent Nikolay Artemyev from the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic session in Moscow—live]

[Text] It is an ordinary parliamentary day at the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] today. Deputies are working in committees and commissions, and in the evening there will be a session of the Soviet of Nationalities that will examine a package of bills on incomes and taxes.

It has become the practice of Russian parliamentarians to make visits to the most diverse regions of our republic to study acute issues on the ground. The other day a deputies' delegation made such a visit to the Kuril Islands in connection with the issue that has become known as the "problem of the Northern Territories" in the press. A news conference given by this deputies' group has just ended. RSFSR People's Deputy Sergey Baburin reported on behalf of the group that the visit took place at the invitation of Valentin Fedorov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet Executive Committee. Sergey Baburin stressed that in light of the visit he and the other members of the group have become convinced that there is no problem of the northern territories, but there is a problem of the Kuril Islands and their regeneration through Russia's efforts. He criticized RSFSR Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, saying that following Kunadze's visit anxiety had increased on the islands, and a wave of rallies had been held among the population. Sergey Baburin stressed that following his meetings with the inhabitants of the Kurils he has no doubt concerning whom the islands should belong to. Any redistribution is inadmissible, he stressed.

At the news conference it was stated that both the deputies' group and the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet Executive Committee support the idea of creating a free economic zone on the territory of the southern Kurils and the island of Hokkaido. Incidentally, the path to free economic zones was also outlined during the meeting between Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, and the Japanese foreign minister, which took place last Saturday. This is the latest news from the House of Russia, and the end of my live report. Nikolay Artemyev, news service.

[Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 15 October in a similar report adds: "The deputies stated at the news conference that they have realized the seriousness of the local population's intentions—right up to declaring state sovereignty. This refers to the four Kurils Islands. Now, because of the uncertainty of the situation, the people living and working on this territory are simply becoming despondent." The station cites the deputies as saying: "This problem should be solved in the immediate future so as to stop, once and for all, all talk of these Kuril Islands which are essential to our state, above all in the interests of national and state security, strategic security."]

Further on News Conference

LD1510142191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1202 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (TASS)—The Kuril Islands belong to Russia and any redrawing of the borders today is impermissible. That is the position of Sergey Baburin and Nikolay Pavlov, members of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, as set out by them today at a news conference at the "White House."

Having visited the Far East, Sergey Baburin and Nikolay Pavlov identified themselves with the feelings of the Kuril Islanders, who state that they refuse to "sell the motherland" or "repeat the fate of the Meskhetian Turks and the Crimean Tatars." They are promising to seek state sovereignty for the Kuril Islands in the event of "betrayal by Russia." Such a point of view is held, in particular, by Valentin Fedorov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast Executive Committee.

The proposal by Ruslan Khasbulatov that the problem of the Kuril Islands should be resolved by recalling Valentin Fedorov to Moscow was described by Sergey Baburin as Khasbulatov's "not very useful utterance," the more so since Valentin Fedorov was recently appointed head of the administration of the Sakhalin oblast by a decree of the RSFSR president.

Kunadze: Baburin Statement 'Unworthy'

OW1110212491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 11 Oct 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has no problems of Northern Territories, but a problem of the Kuril Islands which need an economic, social, and cultural revival by concerted efforts of their population and all Russia," said the coordinator of the parliamentary group "Russia" in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Sergey Baburin in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk upon his return there from a trip to the southern Kurils. Concerning the Russian Federation's leadership he remarked that "a statesman trying to trade in land would break his neck as the people would never forgive him". S. Baburin and another member of the same group—Nikolay Pavlov—are seeking in parliament a denunciation of the Soviet-Japanese declaration of 1956 pledging the islands Habomai and Shikotan to Japan upon signing a peace treaty.

The territorial dispute between the USSR and Japan, naturally involving Russia, is an objective legal reality—countered RSFSR Deputy-Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze in an exclusive interview with DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. He reminded that no peace treaty has been signed to fix the border between the two countries. In view of that he described S. Baburin's pronouncement as "unworthy of a professional lawyer" and as "a frankly political statement."

Kunadze went on to recall that both USSR and RSFSR Presidents—M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin—have long recognized the existence of that problem in relations with Japan. That means a wish to seek solutions to it. In this context S. Baburin's words sound as another attempt to tar Russia's leadership with trying to trade land for economic aid.

The absurdity of such an allegation is patent, commented Kunadze. B. Yeltsin in his message to Japan's Prime Minister T. Kaifu and Russia's other officials in their statement flatly denied such a deal. A confirmation is in the recent remarks by the Japanese Finance Minister Hasimoto who explained that Tokyo has no intention to link economic aid to Moscow with the territorial issue. So—stressed G. Kunadze—S. Baburin's speech is nothing but a counter- productive speculation.

The diplomat expressed confidence that no one in the present leadership of Russia would dream of trading in land. There is a clear understanding of responsibility for further relations with Japan including a need to settle the outstanding issues inherited from earlier times. G. Kunadze called Baburin's conduct populist, right only in "seeking understanding and backing from public opinion, particularly among the population of the southern Kuril Islands." Kunadze is sure Russia's leaders will also seek that.

As to S. Baburin's demand of denunciation of the Soviet-Japanese declaration of 1956, Kunadze admits that any deputy has a right of legislative initiative. But we should bear in mind that the declaration is the only legal basis for the two countries' relations. That makes it impossible to change any of its clauses unilaterally, only denounce it as a whole. Russia would lose its only legal instrument for relations with Japan. Actually, S. Baburin is seeking to sever diplomatic relations with that country. "That's his right, but his fellow deputies have a right to give it an adequate response," warned G. Kunadze.

Further on Remarks

OW1110193691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The problem of territorial partitioning between the USSR and Japan and, accordingly, between Russia and Japan, is an objective juridical reality, said deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, Georgiy Kunadze.

In an exclusive interview to IF [INTERFAX] he said that to this day the two countries had not concluded a peace agreement that would juridically confirm the border between the two countries. In this connection, Mr. Kunadze described as "openly political and populist" the recent statement by the coordinator of the parliamentary group Rossiya in the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Mr. Sergey Baburin, who said that there was no territorial problem in Russian-Japanese relations. To quote Mr. Kunadze, Sergey Baburin was trying to present the whole matter as an attempt by some of the Russian leaders to conclude a trade deal in exchange for Japan's economic aid. The absurdity of such a view on the problem is obvious, said Mr. Kunadze. The message by the Russian Federation's President Boris Yeltsin to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and also the statements made by the Russian Federation's officials, categorically ruled out the possibility of such a deal. To quote Mr. Kunadze, Sergey Baburin was only right in one thing: We really "must work to draw understanding and support for our moves from the public, particularly from the population of the south Kuril Islands."

As to Baburin's statement to the effect that the 1956 Soviet-Japanese Declaration, according to which the islands of Khabomai and Shikotan should be passed to Japan following the conclusion of a peace treaty, must be denounced, it actually means the rupture of diplomatic relations with Japan, said G. Kunadze. He also said that the 1956 declaration is the only document providing a juridical basis for relations between the two countries.

Far East Councils To Discuss Islands Issue

OW1510110991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Association of Far Eastern Councils of People's Deputies will convene for a session in Khabarovsk on October 21. According to Anatoliy Aksenov, chairman of the Sakhalin region council, it will focus on the Kuril problem. The coordinating council of the association will have to take its decision on this issue and inform the Russian Government and president accordingly.

The session, A. Aksenov said, will have to include in its final document a point expressing concern about what happens to the local fishing fleet if 4 islands in the south Kurils are transferred to Japan, since presently fishermen from the entire Pacific Maritime Territory fish in the area.

Besides, at its session the association of Far Eastern councils will consider a concept for developing the Pacific Maritime Territory.

Moscow's Mayor Remarks on Islands Return

LD1210083391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] I think the Kuril islands must be returned to the Japanese, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov said, answering a Russian information agency correspondent's question. However, in Gavriil Popov's opinion, this process must be sufficiently lengthy, because at the moment, the islands' population consists not only of Japanese, but of Russians.

Invitation Extended to Japan's Nakayama

LD1410031691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0130 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Excerpt] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 14 Oct (TASS)—Late on 13 October Valentin Fedorov, head of the administration of Sakhalin Oblast and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputy, sent a telegram to the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, addressed to Taro Nakayama, Japanese foreign minister.

"The leadership of Sakhalin Oblast and its population," it says, "have always followed the progress of talks between our countries with great interest [zainteresovanostyyu], the more so now, when a number of questions under discussion directly affect the interests of the inhabitants of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. Taking this into account, we politely invite you to visit Sakhalin Oblast, at a time convenient for you. In the course of your visit to our oblast a frank exchange of opinions could take place on issues of mutual interest." [passage omitted]

Belorussia

Supreme Soviet Deputies Visit Chernobyl

LD1310133691 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 13 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Alexei Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev October 13 TASS—The past 24 hours have been calm at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, a spokesman at the centre for the elimination of the consequences of fire, told the correspondent.

The first and third power units are in operation, with their aggregate power being 1,280 megawatts. Apart from the second power unit, the second turbo-generator of the first power unit has been stopped to pump out water that got there during the elimination of the fire.

The attending personnel of the station work as usual. The radiological situation at the station and around it remains unchanged. The radiation background is within the established norms.

A government commission headed by Ukrainian State Minister of State Viktor Gladush is working out measures to eliminate the aftermath of the fire.

A group of Belorussian parliament members visited the station this morning. They met Nikolay Sorokin, chief engineer of the nuclear power station and head of the centre for the elimination of the aftermath of the fire, who told them about the current state of affairs at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

No Radiation Increase in Republic Noted

LD1410205391 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belorussian 0400 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Belorussian Gidromet reports: After the 11 October accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, all the stations of the Belorussian Gidromet started observations every three hours. The level of (?gamma-diod) radiation is being measured and the presence of short-life radio-nuclea is being traced. All data analyses shows that the radiation situation on the republic's territory has not changed. None of the 52 stations has detected an increase in the level of the parameters under control. The reinforced radiation control on the territory of the Republic of Belorussia continues.

Moldova

Snegur Cited on Economic Treaty Changes

LD1210014191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] The attainment of real independence will require the overcoming of difficulties connected with attempts by dying Union structures to use every means at their disposal to preserve the former Union, according to Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. He was speaking at a meeting with representatives of the republic's youth organizations. He noted that the Moldovan delegation had hardly returned from Alma-Ata when the agreement on setting up an economic community, initialled at the Kazakhstan meeting by 12 of the former Union republics, underwent a revision in Moscow. The aim of assertions that there can be no question of an economic community without a political union, according to the Moldovan president, is nothing but a desire on the part of dying imperial structures to use economic pressure against the republics to force them to sign political agreements as well.

Snegur Comments on Independence Policy

AU1510102391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0825 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev], ROMPRES, 15/10/1991—Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, met with representatives of the local power bodies in Dubossary Department. He informed about the official statement of the Popular Front of Moldova on its joining the opposition and boycotting the presidential elections, MOLDOVA PRES reports.

Mr. Mitcu, prefect of Dubossary Department, underscored several social, political and economic problems confronting the department at present. The population of Dubossary, stressed Mr. Mitcu, intends to take part in the presidential elections but does not agree with the policy promoted by the Popular Front of Moldova regarding the undelayed union with Romania.

President Mircea Snegur showed on the same occasion that the Republic of Moldova could not exist without Transdnestria. Informing his colloqutors about the measures taken to achieve a real independence President Snegur said: "a union with another state is out of question. At present Moldova promotes a policy pursuing the assertion of our independence internationally. The statements made by some leaders of the Popular Front of Moldova are irrational and can be considered provocations," President Snegur said in conclusion.

Unification Appeal 'Provocation'

LD1510111191 Moscow TASS in English 1049 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev October 15 TASS—Moldavian President Mircea Snegur said on Tuesday Moldavia's unification with other states is impossible.

He told a rally in Dubossary district that "Moldavia's policy aims to strengthen its independence in the world arena".

The president called a provocation the Republican People's Front's appeals f[illegible] an immediate unification with

Romania and for a boycott of presidential elections in Moldavia scheduled for December 8.

He warned this may have unpredictable consequences.

Ukraine

Reportage on Chernobyl Plant Fire, Commentary

Nuclear Power Ministry Statement

LD1210093991 Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—TASS on Saturday received a statement by Yevgeniy Ignatenko, head of the press service of the Soviet Ministry of the Nuclear Power Industry, about the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Friday.

"At 19:46 on October 11, turbine No. 4 of the No.2 reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was idled for repairs. Suddenly, at 20:09, an automatic switch turned the reactor on again, causing heavy currents in its electrical circuit and fire in its bus ducts.

"At 20:10, after the reactor was shut down, the oil was drained from the turbine and the hydrogen in the reactor was replaced with nitrogen. However, the fire in the bus ducts released hydrogen into the turbine room, setting its roof ablaze and destroying one of the trusses," the statement said.

The fire was put out by 23:30. No injuries or radiation release were reported. The reactor is now being cooled.

A special commission will arrive in the plant on Saturday to investigate the accident.

Official Demands Plant Closure

LD1210122191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1142 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Oct—Vladimir Yavorivskiy, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet standing commission on issues pertaining to the Chernobyl catastrophe stated today that it is necessary to immediately close the Chernobyl power plant. Interviewed in connection with Friday's accident at the station's second block, he emphasised that "a Ukrainian parliamentary resolution exists on the complete closure of the Chernobyl plant, of all the station's blocks, and the republic's government should implement this immediately. We cannot continue to sit on this powder keg. I repeat once again: the station needs to be shut immediately".

Having noted that last night has reminded the Ukraine, and Kiev in particular of the night of 26 April 1986 when the largest accident in the history of nuclear power took place at the Chernobyl plant, Vladimir Yavorivskiy stated: "Thank God, this time everything worked out relatively well. The radioactive zone was not damaged, so we can say with assurance that no additional radiation has gotten into the atmosphere". However, he emphasized that this whole matter must not be left like this. A government commission is to get to the bottom of what has taken place.

Fire 'Promptly Put Out'

LD1210122491 Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev October 12 TASS—The fire that broke out in an electrical generator at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Friday was promptly put out and did not cause serious damage.

"About 300 firemen and 60 fire machines were sent to the plant from Kiev, Chernigov and Zhitomir regions and from Kiev. The fire was extinguished by 93 firemen from Kiev and Kiev region. Others stayed in reserve. They put out the fire in the turbine room, preventing it from reaching the reactor," Filipp Desyatnikov, head of the Ukrainian Fire Department, said.

He said firemen are helping clear the room from debris.

No injuries or radiation release were reported.

A special commission has been set up to investigate the accident.

The commission, headed by Ukrainian Minister of Industry and Transport Viktor Gladush, includes electrical engineers, firemen and other specialists.

Radiation Levels 'Within Limits'

LD1210135891 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 12 TASS—No radioactivity escaped during a fire in an electrical generator of the No. 2 reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Friday, Yuriy Izrael, head of the Soviet hydrometeorological committee, said.

He said the level of radiation at the plant and in surrounding areas, as well as in remote districts is within limits.

He said the radiation situation at the plant, as well as in Kiev, Zhitomir, Chernigov, Gomel and Brest regions is being monitored.

IAEA Radioactive Levels Stable

LD1210135391 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna October 12 TASS—A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna, David Kyd, said on Saturday there was no indication of radioactivity having been released during a fire in an electrical generator of the No. 2 reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Friday.

He said the Soviet Union did not immediately report the incident to the IAEA, which would have been necessary if radioactivity had escaped.

Kyd said the Agency expects the first detailed reports about the accident on Monday.

Plant Official on Restoration Work

LD1210161491 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev October 12 TASS—Nikolay Skreka, deputy director of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, said that the first and the third power units are now functioning. The fire site is now being examined, fragments of the collapsed metal structures are being removed. At the same time, orders are being filled for the production of pillars, which will replace the destroyed ones.

According to Skreka, about a month will be needed for clean-up and restoration. The work will include the movement of building machines to the fire site, the drawing up of restoration designs and the choice of the best ones. He stressed that the fire did not bring about the worsening of the radiation situation at the nuclear power plant and around it, because it did not affect the power unit.

Criminal Proceedings Begin

LD1210190891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1730 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] We have already reported on yesterday evening's fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Our Ukraine correspondent reports the details, saying that the fire broke out in the canopy over the turbine hall of the second reactor bloc. It did not affect the canopy over the actual reactor, which, however, has been completely shut down. A government commission is seeking to determine the reasons for and circumstances of the fire. A center has been set up to manage the clean-up operation, headed by Nikolay Sorokin, the station's chief engineer.

Work has begun to dismantle the structures damaged by the fire. The possible duration of the clean-up operation, and how long it will take to restart the reactor, is being ascertained. The neighboring reactor blocs one and three are functioning as normal. Criminal proceedings have begun in connection with the fire.

Repairs Planned, Month Timetable

LD1310192891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast; presented by Yuriy Rostov]

[Text] According to assessments received today, repairs following yesterday's fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power station will take at least a month. As always, the cause of the fire is allegedly accidental. The failure of an electrical switch is evidence that technology at the station is of low reliability. TASS reports that the No. 1 and No. 3 generating sets are still in operation.

We would remind you that one result of recent checks at the station was the conclusion that rainwater is freely entering the concrete sarcophagus that covers the nuclear reactor that exploded: having become radioactively enriched, it freely enters the ground waters.

Investigators' News Conference

LD1310210191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Oct 91

[By Ukrinform-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kiev, 13 Oct (TASS)—A news conference was held today at the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station [AES]. Viktor Gladush, the chairman of the state commission for investigating the circumstances of the fire which took place at the station on 11 October and also state minister for industial and transportation issues of the Ukraine, and Yuriy Shcherbak, state minister for environmental issues, have answered questions by Soviet and foreign journalists.

In particular, Viktor Gladush has answered a question on the morale of the station's collective and the psychological climate.

"I would like to stress, he said, that at the moment of the accident the staff acted promptly and confidently. The staff's actions were impeccable. This was not a nuclear accident, but a fire at the Chernobyl AES. That is why it is no accident that people are concerned. All efforts that the government investigating commission is to exert will be aimed at raising the level of fire safety at this station and other nuclear sites. A question was asked whether there is any point in restoring the roof when the AES is to be closed down anyway. There is talk also about creating normal conditions for the work of the staff".

Yuriy Shcherbak noted that over the five years that have passed since the 1986 Chernobyl accident, serious conclusions have been made regarding informing the public.

"As minister for Issues of Nature Use and Environmental Protection, I was of course primarily concerned not by the technical aspects of the fire but by safety for the environment and for people. I wish to state that representatives of the international organization "Greenpeace International" and of the Ukrainian organization "Zelenyy Svit" ("Green World") arrived here yesterday. With the help of the Independent Ecology Institute of the Ukraine, they took samples and carried out a radiometric study on 12 October to determine the situation around the AES. Other studies were also carried out. Highly sensitive apparatus was used to test water samples. The results show that the data gained from the studies are no different from data gathered before the accident: There was a reading of 30-40 microroentgens per hour on the square outside the adminstrative building. The background radiation in Kiev was 15-13 microroentgens per hour, in other words, the same as it was before the fire. The data were the same for the station buildings, including the turbines and reactor rooms. We have reached the firm conclusion that in this situation there was no nuclear accident, there was no escape of radiation, and that there is no threat of increased radiation to the environment, and to Kiev in particular, as well as other population points."

Answering a question about alternative sources of energy, Yuriy Shcherbak noted that, influenced by the USSR Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and other scientific organizations made a great mistake is not turning to these sources. "If one looks at capital investment in nuclear power engineering and alternative sources they are poles apart," he stressed.

Fokin: 'Essential' To Sign Economic Treaty

LD1210141991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1304 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Statement by Ukrainian Prime Minister Fokin; place and date not given; from the "Television News Service" program—recorded in Ukrainian with superimposed translation into Russian]

[Text] [Announcer] The State Council is at work in Moscow under the chairmanship of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The leaders of 10 republics are discussing the draft agreement on an economic community and also the food agreement between the republics.

[Fokin] I would like to express my absolute conviction that it is essential to sign the treaty on economic cooperation. This is our key to the future. Although some people here in the Ukraine are already calling me an agent of Moscow, I stress over and over again that we cannot exist autonomously, particularly today.

Those leaders who are today trying to push us toward confrontation are taking dangerous risks. If we do not reach an agreement very quickly, then the working class, which will remain without work, will have its say.

Views Treaty, Cabinet Formation

PM1310141391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[S. Tsikora report: "Ukraine Ready To Sign Treaty on Economic Community, But It's Prime Minister Is Dissatisfied With His Government's Composition"]

[Text] Kiev—Once again the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is on the verge of upheavals. The republic's prime minister, V. Fokin, has stated that in the next few days he will satisfy requests regarding the resignation of a number of his cabinet ministers and will recommend to the Supreme Soviet new candidates for the vacant posts.

Fokin announced these changes at a news conference prior to flying to Moscow for a State Council session. He stated that he had obtained authority from the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet chairman to sign the Treaty on an Economic Community between the republics of the former Union. In his opinion, this treaty is absolutely essential and as of today is the "ticket to the future."

But why have certain members of the current republic Cabinet of Ministers been forbidden entry into this future?

"I was not given the chance to form a cabinet at my discretion," Fokin declared. "I was being pressured from two sides—the party majority in parliament and the extremely active opposition. As a result the nominations of many worthy people were rejected. The consequences of this are present today—people thinking in the stereotypes of the administrative-edict leadership cannot work in the new conditions. I gave them the chance to make autonomous decisions," Fokin went on, "but in the same old way they are trying to coordinate everything, wasting time, and paralyzing other people's initiatives."

The Ukrainian prime minister mentioned the names of a number of cabinet members who are "clearly not pulling their weight." The cadre changes, he went on, are conditioned also by the fact that the government has set a clear course for structural changes in the republic's whole economy. It is now geared not toward working in the country's so-called unified complex, but primarily toward satisfying the demands of the Ukraine's population.

At the news conference journalists were shown the first examples of reusable coupons. The head of government said that their introduction into circulation is scheduled for the end of this year or the beginning of next.

Supreme Soviet Undecided on Joining Union

OW1110132791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After stormy debates on Wednesday the Ukrainian parliament delayed its decision on whether or not to send its envoys to the country's new legislature consisting of two chambers: Council of the Union and Council of the Republics. It decided that this issue should be closely studied by the commissions and considered once again at a plenary meeting of parliament. Deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Vladimir Grinev was requested to lead this work.

Before taking a final decision the Ukrainian leadership should consider everything carefully, Mr. Grinev told

IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent. According to him, "certain legislative functions" should not be delegated to the union structures.

V. Grinev was instructed to conduct the necessary consultations with other republics and inform the parliament of the results.

The Ukrainian government should think what retaliatory actions, including economic, might be taken if Kiev declined to send its envoys to the central parliament, said the deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliament. "This work might take 2 to 3 weeks to complete; only then should the parliament take its final decision," Grinev said.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Armed Forces

OW1110215691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its closed session on Friday, the Ukrainian parliament discussed prospects for organizing the republic's armed forces and defence concept. It decided that the republic would have troops of two levels: the Ukrainian army and the collective strategic-defence formations under the Union Defence Ministry's command.

The Ukrainian armed forces, roughly 450,000 strong, will consist of a land (land defence) force, air and anti-aircraft forces, and navy. The land-defence force will also encompass frontier troops, civil defence units and the Republican Guard.

The armed forces, with the exception of the Republican Guard, will be based on the mixed principles of voluntary and universal service. The Guard will be organized on the competition and contract basis. The criteria for selecting future guards are as follows: they must be at least 175 centimetres tall, and have neither speech defects nor tatoo. Out of the military budget of 8 billion roubles, 500 million will go to the Republican Guard.

The function of the Ukrainian armed forces' commander-in-chief will be performed by the Ukrainian president, who will have the right to announce martial law and declare war. The armed forces and defences will be controlled by the Defence Council—the supreme collective body which will consist of the head of the parliament, the prime minister, the chairman of the parliamentary commission for defence and the leaders of the Foreign Ministry and the National Security Service.

The dislocation of the units attached to the strategic defence forces will be defined by the parliament of the Ukraine and regulated by a special republican law.

Demand Nuclear Withdrawal by 1995

AU1110192991 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Kiev, Soviet Ukraine, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Ukrainian parliament Friday called for the withdrawal of all nuclear forces from the republic by 1995.

At a closed-door meeting, parliament also voted for the setting up of a republican army, which should be made up of professionals come 1995.

Armed forces based in Ukraine—currently about 1.5 million men—should be reduced to about 420,000 men by 1995, at which time the republic would become "a neutral and denuclearized zone", in line with its independence declaration.

Ukraine has already appointed a defence minister, General Konstantin Morozov.

Foreign Minister Meets With Baker

LD1210114691 Moscow TASS in English 1126 GMT 12 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations October 12 TASS—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko on Saturday met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Zlenko is attending the 46th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York City.

Baker reiterated the United States's readiness to develop cooperation with the Ukraine, if transformations in the Soviet Union remain democratic and peaceful.

He stressed the United States is adherent to the Helsinki accords and will not interfere in internal affairs of Soviet republics.

Baker and Zlenko discussed issues concerning nuclear and conventional weapons in the Ukraine. Baker called for the earliest possible ratification of the treaty on strategic offensive and conventional weapons in Europe.

Both leaders focused on bilateral cooperation between the United States and the Ukraine, including economic ties.

Baker accepted Zlenko's invitation to visit the Ukraine. A date for the visit will be set later via diplomatic channels.

Georgia

Reportage on South Ossetian Developments

Council Sends Appeal to Gorbachev

LD1110225991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1904 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Oct (TASS)—Norms of international laws on the protection of human rights have attained the status of constitutional law with direct application in Georgia. Such a law has been adopted by the republican Supreme Council session which was held here today. This has been reported by SAKINFORM.

According to this news agency, the Georgian parliament has adopted an appeal to the USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] presidents, the USSR State Council, and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. It protests in connection with "the continuing aggravation of the situation on the territory of the former South Ossetian autonomous oblast, which has been caused by the attempts of outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Georgia".

The appeal includes a demand to "withdraw the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs interior troops, whose presence is unlawful from that region".

Helicopter Downed in Fighting

OW1210161291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in South Ossetia shows no signs of improvement. On Friday, the township of Znauri, which is a regional centre, became a target of Georgian militants' grenade and rocket attack. A direct hit destroyed a child-care centre; a 3-year-old child was killed; 4 people were wounded.

During the evacuation of residents from the Ossetian village of Kaleti, an armoured personnel carrier was fired at from a helicopter. The helicopter was shot down. An examination revealed that on its board there were 5 kilos of explosives, a self-made grenade, a safety fuse, cartridge and about 300 empty sub-machine- gun cases.

According to preliminary information obtained from the Soviet Interior Ministry's Public Relations Centre, the helicopter belonged to the Georgian Civil Aviation Agency.

Four militants who were on board the helicopter were detained. There were no victims among servicemen.

According to the available information, since the conflict flared up between Ossetia and Georgia, 250 Ossetians have been killed and about 500 wounded in the republic. More than 100 civilians have been reported missing. Ossetians have been banished from about 100 villages of South Ossetia.

IF [INTERFAX] has no information about the losses on the Georgian side.

Situation 'Disquieting'

LD1310142191 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Vladikavkaz October 13 TASS—The situation on the territory of South Ossetia was disquieting last night. Shots were again fired on the outskirts of Tskhinvali which lives under the state-of-emergency conditions.

Militants fired on residential areas of the regional centre from large-calibre machine-guns and grenade launchers from the direction of Nikozi, Mevrikisi, Eredvi and Tamarasheni villages. Unguided missiles were also fired. High-rise buildings on the southern and northern outskirts of the city were heavily damaged. Some public utilities were damaged as well. Five residents were heavily wounded.

An intensive fire was again brought down on the district centre of Znauri. A communications centre, an electric substation, a shopping centre, a school and a kindergarten were damaged. One person was killed and seven Ossets were brought to hospital with injuries.

A Georgian helicopter with militants on board was damaged on the outskirts of Znauri.

According to reports by the press centre of the South Ossetia information committee, militants continue punitive actions against the civilian population in villages of Tskhinvali and Znauri Districts. They seize civilians as hostages, drive cattle away and take with them people's personal belongings and food.

In all, more than 250 Ossets were killed and 480 wounded in the autonomous region over the period of confrontation between the Georgian and Ossetian sides, and 112 civilians are reported missing. Ossets have been forced to abandon 94 villages.

Instances of militants' attacks on the military for the purpose of seizing arms have also become frequent over the past three days. Fire is constantly conducted from direction of Nikozi village on a helicopter regiment stationed on the outskirts of Tskhinvali.

During a republican television appearance, North Ossetian Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov said the leadership was doing everything to resolve the problem of refugees whose influx into the republic does not cease.

He said messages had been sent to the USSR Council of State and the president of the Russian Federation in a request to consider and decide on matters aimed at giving additional financial and material aid to the republic.

Deputies Write Gorbachev, Yeltsin

LD1410210991 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] A (STUDINFORM) correspondent reports that USSR People's Deputy (Gusev) and RSFSR People's Deputy (Shuykov), members of the parliamentary commission on the South Ossetian situation, today sent a letter to the USSR and RSFSR [Russian Federated Soviet Socialist Republic] presidents containing relevant proposals on settling the conflict. The proposals worth noting are the creation of the regiment of municipal militia in Tskhinvali and the demand to take economic sanctions against Georgia if its leadership takes an uncompromising position. Other proposals are not particularly different from the ones repeatedly put forward at various levels. There are some doubts about a proposal suggesting that Georgia's Internal Affairs Ministry should participate in the disarmament of Georgian fighters. However, the authors of the letter told the (STUDINFORM) correspondent that with all the precautions this point will allow the suggested measures to reserve their compromising character. The RSFSR president should get the letter tomorrow. The USSR president will also receive it in the next few days. It is expected that the reply will come next week.

USSR Troop Attacks Increasing

LD1410150791 Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow October 14 TASS—Servicemen of the USSR Interior Ministry forces who are in South Ossetia to help stabilise the situation were attacked ever more frequently in South Ossetia in the recent days, say reports to the staff of the USSR Interior Ministry troops. A checkpoint on the outskirts of Tskhinvali and a military township came under fire. There is no loss of life. The purpose of the raid was probably to seize arms.

Negotiations with representatives of the opposing sides conducted by members of a group of investigators of the USSR Interior Ministry and officers of the interior troops have not led to normalization of the situation. There is informantion that a number of militants around Tskhinvali and villages of the Znauri district is increasing.

Armed Ossetians, Georgians Massing

OW1410154991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More submachine-gun and artillery fire attacks have been made on the South Ossetian capital Tskhinvali. On Sunday [13 October], three Ossetians were shot and wounded, 7 civilian homes were destroyed, and a savings bank and 20 more residential houses were damaged.

As the district center of Znauri came under artillery fire late on Saturday night, 20 homes were damaged, 3 of them burnt up, and the electric power station was put out of order.

Soviet Interior Troops report the amassment of armed groups of Ossetians and Georgians in Tskhinvali suburbs.

'Extremists' Attack

OW1410182591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Interior Ministry's press centre reported on October 14 that in South Ossetia the situation is the most alarming in the former Kornisi district where "Ossetian extremists" had attacked a number of Georgian villages: Sunisi, Alibari, Akhalsheni, Khendisubani, Shindisi, Tsedlisi and Okona. The attackers killed around 20 and wounded many Georgians.

"Ossetian extremists have used the conversion of the defesne industries underway in the USSR to buy 20 armoured vehicles to attack the Georgian population," reports the Georgian Interior Ministry's press centre.

Council Condemns Kostava Actions

AU1410155691 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1230 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] Here is a statement issued by the Council for National Security:

Recently [Vazha] Adamiya's combat group bearing the name of the Kostava Society has become more active in the entire territory of the former so-called South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast.

This combat force is acting in an arbitrary manner and not one of its actions (?coincides) with that of the official Georgian Government and the Council for National Security.

Therefore, the Council for National Security places full responsibility on the members of this society for the consequences of all its actions.

[signed] The Council for National Security

Council Chairman Assesses Tbilisi Situation

LD1210223891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] Late on 11 October Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council, held a news conference in Tbilisi. Our correspondent, Tengiz Oblotiya, reports.

[Oblotiya] It was attended by correspondents from central television, the Television News Service program, and also Western press agencies. Asked by a correspondent from the IPRINDA news agency how the chairman of the Supreme Soviet assessed the current situation in the republic, he answered: It is still early to speak of the situation being fully stabilized. However, the process of rapprochement between the government and opposition is already discernible. But the most important thing, nonetheless, is that the armed confrontation has ceased, and that there is no bloodshed.

Asked about the privatization of state assets, Akakiy Asatiani replied that the law on privatization came into force on 1 October. However, the job of removing the economy from state control in the republic is encountering major difficulties because of its integration into federal structures. However, the government intends as a matter of principle to pursue a policy of introducing a market economy in Georgia.

In my subjective opinion, said Akakiy Asatiani, it should be possible to enter into a military alliance with Russia—namely Russia, and not the Soviet Union. It is also essential to retain economic links with the other republics and with Russia, since the grave economic situation in Georgia cannot be cured through barter deals.

Interestingly, in an interview with journalists, the chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council stressed that politics itself is not a dirty business, as is commonly believed—it is people who make it dirty.

Gamsakhurdia Resumes Moscow TV Relays

LD1310195691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1905 GMT 13 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 Oct (TASS)—The relay of Central and Russian Television programs resumed in Georgia's capital today. This was done, as the TASS correspondent was told at the republican radio and television transmitter station, on President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's instruction. Since 31 September, the inhabitants of the republic's central and most populated areas have received only local television newscasts. According to the official version, this was caused by the opposition forces capturing Georgia's state television and radio department building. However, this took place a day later, on 22 September.

Bread Rationing Introduced 14 Oct

LD1410140391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1300 GMT 14 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Oct (TASS)— From today, the population of Georgia can obtain bread only with special vouchers. This is the "gift" that the government has presented to the republic's people for the Christian holiday which falls today, and which has been declared a nonworking day. The bread ration is 500 grams per person per day.

The introduction of bread ration cards in Georgia is an enforced measure and is connected with the fact that nearly 100 percent of grain is imported from neighboring republics. It is being imported at the new procurement prices, whereas bread loaves are sold in the republic at the old prices. Given this, the scanty local budget is in no position to pay the full price difference. Specialists are of the opinion that it is not concern for the population, but political considerations, that motivate the government's unwillingness to increase prices for bread, milk, and public transport. During his election campaign Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the future president of Georgia, promised voters that he would not raise prices for these goods and services. He intends to keep his word. No account was taken of economic expediency here.

At the same time, in order in some way to balance the money deficit, the government recently announced the latest price rises for wine, liquor, and meat products. Furthermore, it abolished price restrictions on apples and mandarin oranges, although peasants, too, will be compelled to pay an obligatory tax of 1.20 rubles for every kilogram of produce they sell. This will naturally drive up prices even more and once again strike yet another blow at the pockets of the needy strata of the population.

It is generally acknowledged, therefore, that cheap bread and transport will cost the people of Georgia considerably more than if the prices for them had been balanced with the all-union prices.

All-Union Press Publication Set To Resume

LD1410163591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Text] The publication of 11 all-Union papers, previously banned by the Georgian leadership, will resume in Georgia on 16 October. Tengiz Sigua, leader of the Georgian opposition, feels Georgian President Gamsakhurdia will resign before the start of winter, the STUDINFORM agency notes, because of the growing economic catastrophe. The agency reports that Georgia's debt to the all-Union budget is, to date, R [rubles] 9 billion and 600 million foreign currency rubles. Nonetheless, Tengiz Sigua believes that Georgia does not owe the center anything; on the contrary, the center owes Georgia R25 billion. A rally by the opposition National Democratic Party is due to begin about now in Tbilisi.

Armenia

Armored Vehicles, Tanks Reportedly Stolen

LD1210141191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Oct 91

[Text] The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs press center reports that a column of armored vehicles was sent from Yerevan to Tbilisi yesterday for scheduled repairs. The armored vehicles and personnel were unarmed and without means of protection. Near Aparan, the column was blocked by a crowd of local inhabitants totalling about 3,000 people. As a result, 11 combat vehicles and tanks, seven armored personnel carriers, two trucks, and two radio sets have been stolen. There were no casualties among the servicemen. An investigation is being carried out by a military procuracy.

Azerbaijan

Mutalibov Links Treaty Signing, Arms Issue

LD1110223291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent Fuad Orly from Azerbaijan, captioned "Baku-TK [DR-press]", on Azerbaijan parliamentary session on 11 October, including recorded remarks by unidentified official in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation by Orly; from the "Vesti" newscast presented by Yuriy Rostov]

[Text] [Orly] Behind closed doors the session of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet has been considering the question of a national army. The decision to set one up has been made, but the question remains open of what is to become of the Soviet Armed Forces' weaponry and military hardware stationed on the territory of Azerbaijan.

[Unidentified man] For over 70 years we have been paying our share to the USSR Ministry of Defense. For that reason all the hardware present on the territory of the republic ought to remain in Azerbaijan. After that we should sit down at the negotiating table and then we can argue further about who owes what to whom.

The official position of Azerbaijan's parliament on this is not yet known. It is a complex issue. A degree of clarification might come with the Azerbaijan president's visit to Moscow to take part in the State council meeting.

[Rostov] Indeed, in Moscow today Mutalibov said that Azerbaijan will sign the Treaty on the Economic Community, but only when the Soviet armed forces give the armed forces to be set up in Azerbaijan those weapons stationed on the republic's territory.

Mutalibov Meets Turkish Chief of Staff

LD1210170791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1535 GNT 12 Oct 91

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku, 12 Oct (TASS)—Concerning the creation of Azerbaijan's national self-defense forces, these forces will be of an exclusively defensive nature and will not in any degree pose a threat to countries bordering on the republic. President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan stated this today during a meeting with General Dogan Gures, chief of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, who is in the USSR on an official visit.

He acquainted him with the sociopolitical and economic situation in the republic, which is making real steps towards the construction of an independent state within the framework of a confederative community.

We are interested in establishing political and business contacts with all states of the world, Mutalibov said, noting the especial importance of deepening economic relations with Turkey.

In a reply speech, Gen. Gures conveyed good wishes to the Azerbaijani people on behalf of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, and stressed the importance of the further strengthening of good-neighborly ties.

Rail Officials Deny Military Materiel Withdrawn

OW1110164391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 11 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head-managers of the Azerbaijani railroads deny that military hardware and ammunition have been withdrawn from Azerbaijan on a large scale.

Their message to the republic's Supreme Soviet says trains have been made available to army units only on special orders from the USSR Defense Ministry and the Azerbaijani Ministry of the Interior. The rail movements of troops have been taken under round-the-clock control.

These measures are seen as the authorities' reaction to yesterday's report by the newspaper SVOBODA (Freedom) of the Azerbaijani Popular Front that the commanders of army units stationed in Azerbaijan had been ordered to quickly withdraw sophisticated hardware and weapon systems out of the Azerbaijani Republic.

Kazakhstan

Baker-Nazarbayev Phone Conversation Noted

*OW1410224591 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2020 GMT 14 Oct 91*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker placed a phone call to the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev from the Jordanian capital Amman late on October 14.

According to information from the press-service of Kazakhstan's president, Mr. Baker expressed satisfaction over the results of the recent meeting of the leaders of the sovereign republics, which had approved the draft treaty on the economic community. Mr. Baker highly appreciated Kazakhstan's role in consolidating Soviet society.

The State Secretary announced his intention of paying another visit to Kazakhstan to meet with Mr. Nazarbaev. On behalf of the U.S. President George Bush he wished the republic's leader success in his policies aimed at stabilising the situation in the country.

Nazarbayev Considers Economic, Political Paths

*PM1110141691 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 24 Sep 91 p2*

[Correspondent V. Komarov "Prognosis" article: "President Nazarbayev's Velvet Way"]

[Text] Karaganda—History has simply left us no time to give the old Union a burial service. Each of the republics has set off on a free, independent voyage, doing things its own way. Which direction will be taken by Kazakhstan?

Will it move in the direction of an independent, democratic state? A mediocre "nomenklatura preserve"? Or an Islamic republic similar to Iran?

The latter version of development is clearly unrealistic. Society's feudal-tribal structure has been pretty well demolished over the decades of Soviet government. The foundations of Islam have been undermined and devotees of the religion can hardly claim leading roles now. Especially as a good half of the republic's population is either atheist or committed to another religion.

So Kazakhstan will have to choose between the first and second options.

However banal it may sound now, those three days in August were the moment of truth for Kazakhstan.

President Nazarbayev's close associates strongly urged him to refrain from making public statements and to give his loyalty to the junta, or so the story goes. He could not be sure of his comrades, who owed their positions to the nomenklatura system, and was even less sure of local leaders, who had tried to block his instructions in the past.

Indeed, dismal reports began to come in from the major cities. The people of this "quiet" republic were remaining silent as usual. Only a handful of democrats were pasting up leaflets in the streets. Agitators were noted and summoned to the prosecutor's office for a dressing-down.

Meanwhile, the republic's "main" newspapers were meticulously printing the usurpers' documents—apparently on their own initiative. Moreover, Kazakh television and radio did not say a word about the resistance in Moscow, banned oblast television and radio committees from going on air right up to 21 August, and censored the content of their broadcasts even after that date.

Nazarbayev's behavior at that critical time has been described as indecisive. However, it is hard to agree with people who strenuously promote this theory. Like any politician in a stalemate situation, the president had his own reasons for biding his time and waiting to see what would happen. What could those reasons have been?

The men behind the coup aimed to stop the disintegration of the Soviet Union and intended to use tanks to hold on to the Baltic republics, Moldova, and Georgia. So the tanks posed no threat to Kazakhstan.

Their other aim was to take reprisals against the democrats. As author of the book "No Left Wing, No Right Wing," centrist Nursultan Nazarbayev is well known as a sympathizer of the Chinese method, with its tough policies but fairly liberal economy capable of feeding the nation. Consequently, it was not he, Nazarbayev, but Yeltsin and "other extremists" who were the main target. All that he would have to reconcile himself to if the coup succeeded was the curtailment of market programs and limitations on the republics' independence. So was it worth risking his life?

On 20 August, when the whole world had voiced its attitude to the events in the Soviet Union and when it first became apparent that the conspiracy was doomed and would not find "nationwide support," Alma-Ata released a statement describing the actions of the "committee" as illegal.

It is better to lose a little than to lose everything. Pragmatism helped the president to retain power and escape with a slight drop in popularity. Consequently, his next steps were prompted by the need to strengthen his authority again and shake off his chains once and for all.

The Communists had not only prevented the president from implementing new economic policies but had also been the main threat to independent government. Remember the national salvation committees in the Baltic republics. And remember that, although the republic's orderly party structure had an intermediate leadership in Alma-Ata, it was really run by Moscow, the center.

In Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev did in two days what the democrats had wanted him to do for two years. He "gave up" his party post, nationalized party property, and dissolved the Central Committee and oblast party committees. Admittedly, even then he remained cautious and calculating: He allowed the Communists to hold a congress, saved them from crushing defeat, and saved society from anticommunist hysteria.

Why did Nazarbayev not deal with the party in the way that Yeltsin did? Because Kazakhstan has nothing like Russia's broad democratic movement. Because the party bigwigs still have vast connections and, without doubt, considerable material leverage. And also, I think, because Nazarbayev himself still has a use for his former comrades, who certainly have considerable "organizational" experience.

Russia and its leader, Yeltsin, now play the leading roles. Kazakhstan and Nazarbayev appear to have been pushed into the background. As there has always been unspoken rivalry between these two leaders and as Nazarbayev will not resign himself to this loss of standing, it is logical to expect some "devious move" from the Kazakh president.

The spectre of a "Greater Turkestan" was first mentioned by the mass media last year. They attributed preeminence to Nazarbayev rather than to any other leader in the region. Admittedly, the president did his utmost to dissociate himself from any such claims and described the idea of a Turkestan conglomerate as unrealistic.

Now, however, judging by several publications, Alma-Ata has begun to talk seriously about forming an "Eastern confederation." At a meeting held on 15 August—the second to date—the leaders of the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan reached agreement on a common, coordinated socioeconomic policy and on organizing a unified investment bank and a special consultative council.

Now that the center has been dramatically weakened, there would appear to be no obstacles in the way of creating a regional economic union. The danger lies elsewhere. As conservative regimes are still in power in most of the Central Asian states, one must hope that this does not affect Kazakhstan's progressive movement. After all, one of the conditions of such an association could be a demand for no dramatic, radical changes in Kazakhstan by some of its neighbors. If that happens, the remaining "party faithful" with their talent for demagoguery could well be very much in the picture.

Meanwhile, the republic has already produced examples revealing the local authorities' desire to prevent the Russian processes from spreading.

In Petropavlovsk, a week after the attempted coup, circulation of the weekly PROVINTSIALNYYE VEDOMOSTI was banned and its editor dismissed—perhaps not so much for its anti-coup articles in August as for its subsequent "discrediting" of high-level officials.

In Karaganda, the oblast radio's chief editor—the first and only man to convey objective information to people—was accused of aiding and abetting the conspirators. Although he has now received an official apology, the incident can be seen as an attempt to put down the "victorious" democrats and show them "who the real power is here."

Ministry officials have also roused themselves. In line with N. Nazarbayev's latest decrees, Alma-Ata is taking the economy firmly into its own hands. It is taking control of exports and imports, including barter deals. It is forcing enterprises to transfer all their hard currency to hard currency accounts in the newly formed Kazakhstan Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, thereby removing collectives' right to economic benefit and independent choice of partners. The center's monopoly is thereby being replaced by the republic's monopoly, which, among other things, gives the nomenklatura additional opportunities to organize new administrative structures or expand the old ones. According to the specialists, however, it would be sufficient—in the interests of sovereignty—to collect taxes to be paid to the republic, even if its enterprises were integrated into the world economy.

If these are just unfortunate exceptions, how should we regard the fact that, contrary to expectation, the recent Kazakh Supreme Soviet session failed to adopt decisions on holding nationwide presidential elections and stripping party proteges of their powers as deputies?

Clearly, N. Nazarbayev is afraid of direct elections. In my view, both the left-wing and, of course, the right-wing opposition is dissatisfied with him. His own team is not yet strong enough to overcome undesirable sentiments. Consequently, the president is being forced to do a balancing act between the interests of democracy and the interests of the nomenklatura. The only question is how long this will continue.

He needs extra powers to remove and appoint oblast leaders, but parliament, which is largely conservative, will not give them. He needs to give enterprise free rein, but the economy's leaders—often the very same parliamentarians—are openly suppressing free competition. It is a vicious circle. Through force of inertia, they feel their only salvation lies in securing injections of dollars, forming new enterprises, and retooling old ones, which would continue to use unpaid labor. Whether it is a coincidence or not, decisions on denationalizing land and factories are slow in coming.

This is purely the nomenklatura option. But it is also largely self-deception, which will be seen for what it is sooner or later. Because, to attract Western investment, the republic will have to give society some democratic features at least. It seems that the "nomenklatura preserve" idea will not work.

Even with the formation of an "Eastern confederation," this economically weak region will depend on the Ukraine and Russia for sugar, metal, and timber—to say nothing of their electronics and machine-building industries. Without doubt, the neighboring republics' inclination for close cooperation will be determined by the southerners' political orientation, as is the case with the G-7 countries when giving credit and most-favored-nation status in trade.

There is also another reason why Russia and Kazakhstan are destined to move in the same direction. Not only their economic ties are too strong to be severed, but their historical, humanitarian, and ethnic ties as well. It goes without saying that they cannot fail to influence the development of these two neighboring, indisputably great states.

In this sense, the formation of democratic institutions in Kazakhstan is also predetermined. But there is one special feature: Russia has just had a revolution, whereas Kazakhstan is evolving without one.

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Reelected; Remarks on Issues

Previews Elections

PM1410092391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Interview with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev by N. Andreyev; place and date not given: "Askar Akayev: Free Kyrgyzstan Should Be Strong"]

[Text] [Andreyev] Askar Akayevich, aren't you embarrassed to have no rivals in the presidential campaign?

[Akayev] Yes, I am. Because straightaway you have very undesirable parallels with presidential elections in certain totalitarian states. Whereas Kyrgyzstan, dare I say it, has firmly embarked on the democratic path of development. Democracy presupposes first and foremost choice in the political sphere. I am the only candidate and, naturally, that is a bad thing. It is also bad for me personally. Although, on the other hand, the forthcoming elections are a chance for the republic's population to assess my activity over my past year in power. In fact, this has dictated my election tactics: I have dispensed with agents and have not been conducting a propaganda campaign. I have refused to use state funds for the election campaign. Let the voters take me as I am. To rule out even the slightest suspicion of rigging, we have invited observers from the former Union republics and from abroad.

[Andreyev] What problems in the republic concern you most of all?

[Akayev] Our republic is no exception: The problems are the economy, political transformations, and ethnic problems—all these will have to be tackled daily and even hourly. But the most important issue for me is how to preserve civic peace, how to ensure that national consensus reigns. I have never seen myself as president of just the Kirghiz people. I uphold the interests of all peoples living on the republic's territory. And this is not so simple. Sometimes there are very complex situations—as was the case with the land law, for instance.

Early this year we elaborated a land code. At the demand of some deputies the draft law included the provision that Kyrgyz land belongs solely to the Kirghiz people. And the draft became law following parliamentary approval. This immediately triggered tension in society. I vetoed this highly controversial and dangerous article of the Land Code. And I firmly stuck to my guns, citing more and more arguments. Finally, deputies recently adopted a formula proposed by me: Kyrgyzstan's land belongs to all the republic's peoples.

We are trying to do everything to strengthen rather than smash interethnic harmony. We have gathered representatives from all national and cultural centers around a "round table," where they agreed on the principles of cooperation. Our government contains representatives of most of the peoples living on the republic's territory.

[Andreyev] The situation in some of the republics around Kyrgyzstan is rather tense at the moment...

[Akayev] This worries us too. Naturally, we have no plans to interfere in sovereign states' affairs. We intend to maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with our neighbors. At the same time, we make no secret of our negative attitude to any forms of fanaticism—be they of the communist or religious variety. Fanaticism is a challenge to democracy and, as a rule, leads to enmity and confrontation between different sections of the population.

We are closest to the Russian position. We have a lot in common regarding democratic and political transformations. During the August putsch we resolutely and uncompromisingly supported Boris Yeltsin. He respects our small republic. It was no accident that he visited our republic first in his initial trip as Russian president. We signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two republics. I have a good relationship with Nursultan Nazarbayev, Islam Karimov, and Leonid Kravchuk. This has a favorable impact on relations between the republics.

[Andreyev] In your speeches you have criticized the draft treaty on economic union. What don't you like about it?

[Akayev] A certain haste has been visible in many spheres of our life recently. This is largely justifiable: Our economy is in a catastrophic state, and resolute and rapid measures are required. However, this cannot justify the desire to sign any old treaty. I sensed this during the State Council session chaired by Gorbachev. Only one draft was submitted—the Yavlinskiy draft. We are again left without any alternatives. The draft, unfortunately, contains some very patently centralist tendencies, and places little trust in the republics' independence. This does not suit us at all. And other republics, as events have shown, are cautious about any attempts to revive the center—even in an improved form.

The treaty on an economic community should be based on horizontal ties—which already exist. It is not the republics that should be made to suit the treaty—the treaty should be made to suit the republics. Bilateral treaties are necessary for our internal stability. We in our republic cannot implement serious economic reform without external ties. We need an economic community without borders for the former Union to be integrated into the world community. We cannot enter it alone, only together! German Ambassador Klaus Blech recently asked me why we needed this. I replied that it is easier to attract investment and technology from abroad. Specifically, from Germany. Germany may also be interested in tiny Kyrgyzstan because we have Germans living here.

It seems to me that much of value can be drawn from the draft "Convention on the Creation of an Economic Community" drawn up by the working group led by Academician Shatalin. Its proposal about differentiated membership of a future economic community—full members, associate members, and observers—is attractive.

In general we should strive to a certain extent to emulate what has already been created in the world—taking the EEC, for instance, as a model. Its central organs carry out coordinating and consultative functions mainly. Clearly, our community's future administrative organ should have a purely executive function. And the president would take on the role of coordinator. The Armed Forces and the nuclear suitcase should remain in the president's hands. He should represent the community abroad.

Askar Akayev Reelected President

OW1410021891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2223 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Current leader of the Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev has been re-elected republican president in a general election that took place Saturday. He received 95 percent of the vote.

Mr. Akayev ran in an uncontested election and is know for his advocacy of democratic changes and market economy.

Addresses News Conference

AU1310161191 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Paola Messana report]

[Text] Bishkek, Soviet Kirghiziya, Oct 13 (AFP) — Askar Akayev became Kyrgryzstan's first freely-elected president Sunday [13 October] after he ran unchallenged and captured 95 percent of the vote.

Turnout was 90 percent in the small central-Asian republic of 4.3 million people, according to the Central Electoral Commission.

At a news conference after his victory was announced, Akayev, 47, declared he would not carry out a major reshuffle of the local government or dissolve the communist-dominated parliament, one of the main demands of the fledgling democratic opposition.

"Such a decision is premature. The deputies should remain until the end of their (three-year) mandate," for the sake of stability, he said.

Toshubek Turgunalyev, co-chairman of the opposition umbrella Democratic Movement of Kirghiziya, immediately criticized the new president's position as indefensible for a regime committed to democracy. "Ninety-five percent of this parliament is composed of communists, it has no right to survive, he said.

Turgunalyev's movement is formed of some 40 small groups, which reluctantly supported Akayev's candidature.

Akayev, then-parliamentary speaker, called the election on August 31, the same day the republic declared its independence. At the same time he suspended the activities of the Communist Party.

He said Sunday that he favored a "strong executive power", while adding that "we must yet work out" the issue of democratization for the republic.

Leading a multi-ethnic republic where the Muslim faith has gained increasing foothold, Akayev said he favored an early parliamentary debate on a draft law on minority rights.

Kirghizs make up 48 percent of the inhabitants, while the balance is composed of Russians (26 percent), Uzbeks (12 percent), Ukrainians (three percent) and other minorities.

The new president also indicated that relations between Kirghiziya and Moscow were improving.

Although he has criticized an economic agreement between the Soviet republics, due to be signed Tuesday, Akayev said that changes suggested by Russian President Boris Yeltsin had lifted remaining obstacles to Kyrgyzstan signing the text.

Further on News Conference

OW1410123291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 14 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his first news conference on Sunday [13 October] as Kyrgyzstan's president elected by a popular ballot, Mr. Akayev called against dissolution of the present Supreme Soviet formed according to the old pattern in 1989. He said the parliament should work out its full term in order "to preserve the fragile stability that has been achieved in Kyrghyzstan by now."

Before a professional and permanent parliament is elected, Kyrgyzstan's various political parties which, according to Mr. Akayev, are "in a state of formation now," must gain sufficient strength.

The head of the republic's supreme soviet, Medet Sherimkulov, told the same news conference that experts were now drafting a new constitution envisaging a new procedure for the election of a professional parliament. The constitution is expected to be passed next year.